

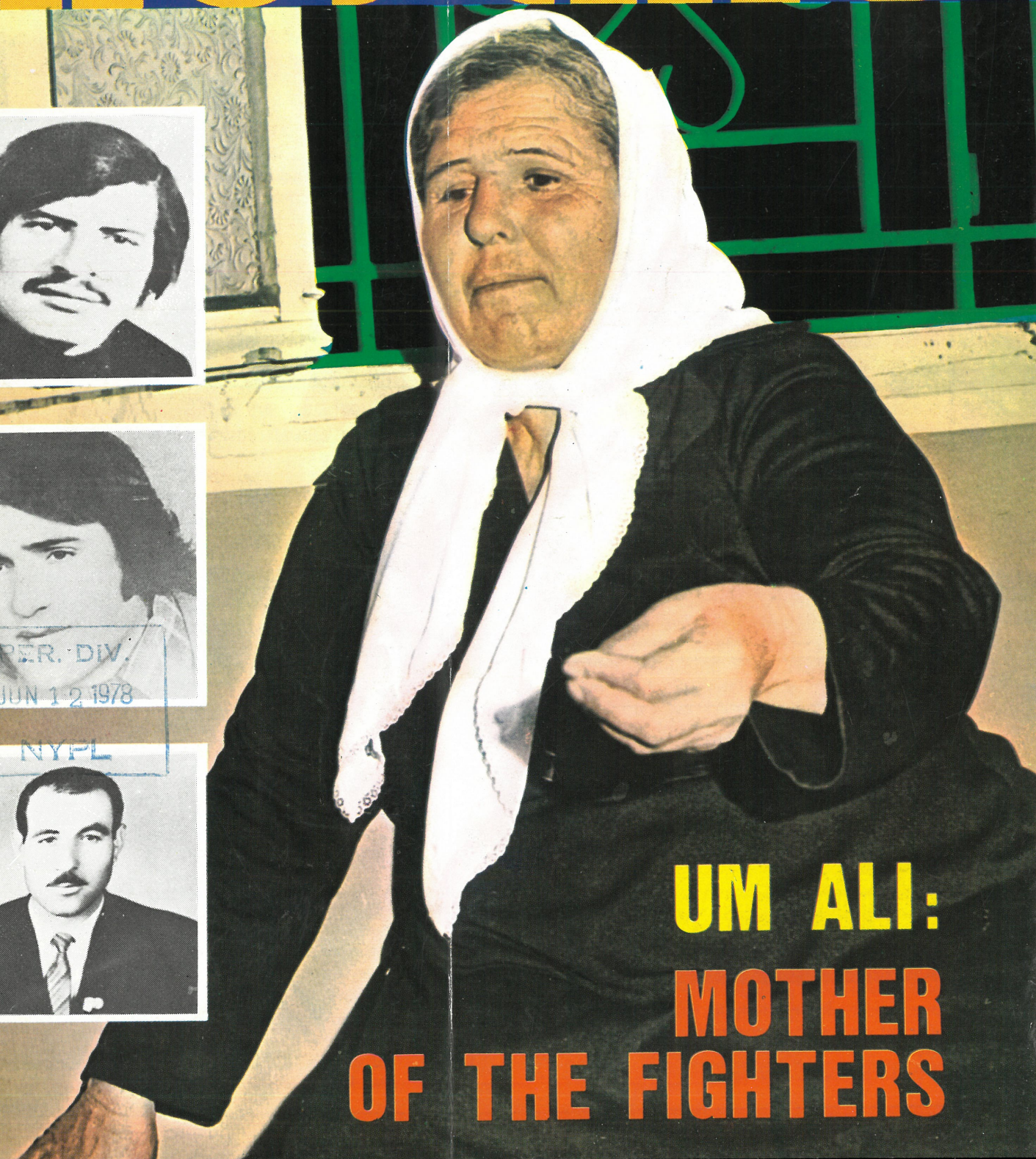
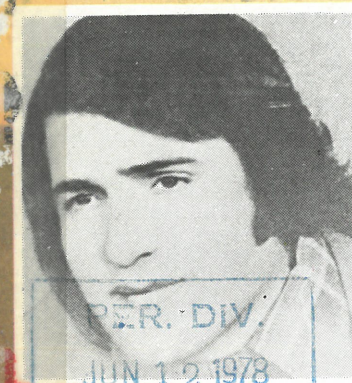
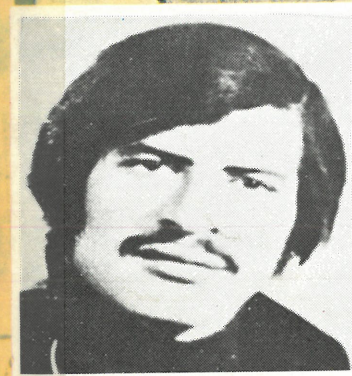
P.L.O.
information
bulletin

Vol. 4 — No. 9
MAY 31, 1978

Palestine



YOUTH DEMONSTRATION
AGAINST LAND CONFISCATION
IN GALILEE



UM ALI:
MOTHER
OF THE FIGHTERS

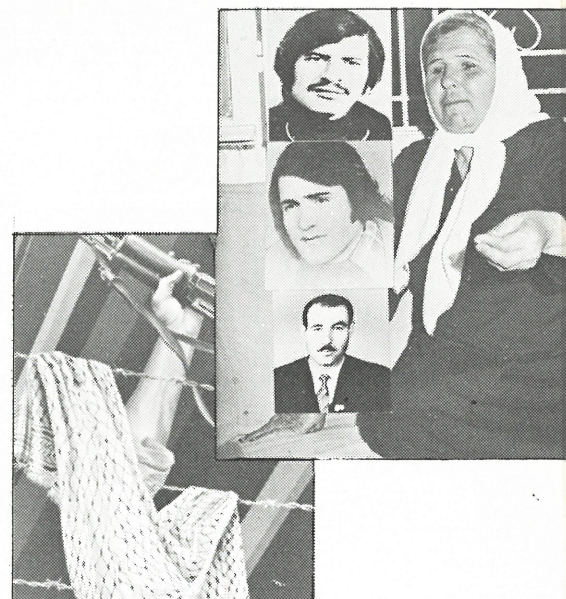
TO OUR FRIENDS

The Zionist state has been boastfully celebrating its 30th anniversary while continuing to ignore the basic rights of the Palestinian people, who continue to suffer both in their refugee camps, and under occupation.

Yet some countries in the world, notably some in Europe, and the United States, still witness the revival of the old slogans such as 'Poor little Israel', 'The Jews will be thrown into the sea', and 'A permanent threat of extermination'. However, such slogans lose their meaning in the face of the recent massacres committed by the Zionist state in South Lebanon, which was a real attempt at mass genocide. It was a clear expose of the aggressive and expansionist nature of the Zionist entity.

World public opinion is becoming more conscious of this fact, and the friends of Palestine are daily increasing in number. This increase is expressed in the growing demonstrations of solidarity with the Palestinian people all around the world, in the socialist countries, the third world countries, as well as in the US, Europe, and Australasia.

We thank the friends of Palestine for their support.



CONTENTS

Editorial	3
A Talk with Um Ali	4-5
Palestine Notes	6-8
International Law and Sth. Lebanon	8-10
Uprising in Shaba	11-13
Occupation Diary	14-15
Military Operations	16-17
Popular Protests Greet Begin and Dayan in U.S. and Europe	17-19
Afghanistan	20-21
Zionism in Practice	22-24
Intensified Oppression for May 15	25-26
Uprising Against Shah of Iran	27-28
Solidarity News	29-30
Poem	31

EDITORIAL

THE U.S. ARMS PACKAGE DEAL

For the first time, the US Congress has adopted a proposal of the President's to deliver arms to Israel and two Arab countries, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The package deal, which comprises 75 F-16s and 15 F-15s for Israel, 60 F-15s for Saudi Arabia, and 50 F-5Es for Egypt, can be considered as the biggest arms deal of the age, ammounting to \$4,800 million. The deal can be considered as the deal of a US President intending to challenge the notorious Zionist lobby in the Congress. Although the Israelis were assigned the lion's share of this deal, they launched a widescale campaign against the administration and the President. They utilised all their lobbyists and sympathisers, both inside the US and abroad, to exert pressure on the White House and the President to refrain from selling US weapons to the Arab countries.

The deal, as such, is of course a victory for the President, but it is also a success for the arms industry in the US, especially for McDonald Douglas, the manufacturer of these sophisticated planes. It also provides great support for the ever-decreasing value of the US dollar on the internal US level, as well as on the international level.

The package deal represented no great success for the Egyptians because the fifty planes they received are already out of date. The Saudis, who received sixty F-15 Eagles, cannot be happy either, because their planes will not have the sophisticated radar system, the rockets, and the additional reserve fuel tanks which enable the plane to have a long range capability of 4,500 kilometers. The Israelis, who received 90 war-planes, were promised an additional 20 F-15s as a result of their active lobbying against the deal. Thus they have no reason to feel anxious about an eventual shift in the balance of forces in the Middle East region.

Can this package deal be considered as a success for the Arabs? Or does this deal represent a shift in the Middle East policy of the US? In fact, the deal does not show any real shift in the Middle East policy of the US. The Arabs cannot be optimistic about such a biased policy because the US still maintains its committment to Israeli aggression and expansion. Giving the Israelis 110 sophisticated war-planes will only encourage them to continue with their intransigence and arrogance. Simultaneously, the Israelis will not refrain from building new settlements in the occupied territories. It is also worth mentioning that during the bargaining over the package deal, the Israelis formalised plans for the building of six new cities in the West Bank. Moreover news came out about a military school to train prospective military governors, in readiness for the occupation of the East Bank of the Jordan.

Taking into consideration all these facts we can still say that there will be no real shift in the Middle East policy of the US unless the US recognizes the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish their own independent state. Any political steps which try to by-pass the PLO are but maneuvers aiming at perpetuating Israeli occupation and expansion. By supplying war-planes to the Egyptians and the Saudis, the US will but cool the tempers of the Arabs, but will not change its pro-Israeli policy. The US aims mainly at alienating the Arabs from the Soviet Union, and preventing the Arabs from buying Soviet and French weapons.

The Palestinian people will not be tricked by such maneuvers, and the PLO, the sole representative of the Palestinian people, will carry on the struggle against all conspiracies and maneuvers, for a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

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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Europe, USA, Canada and Australia	20 \$

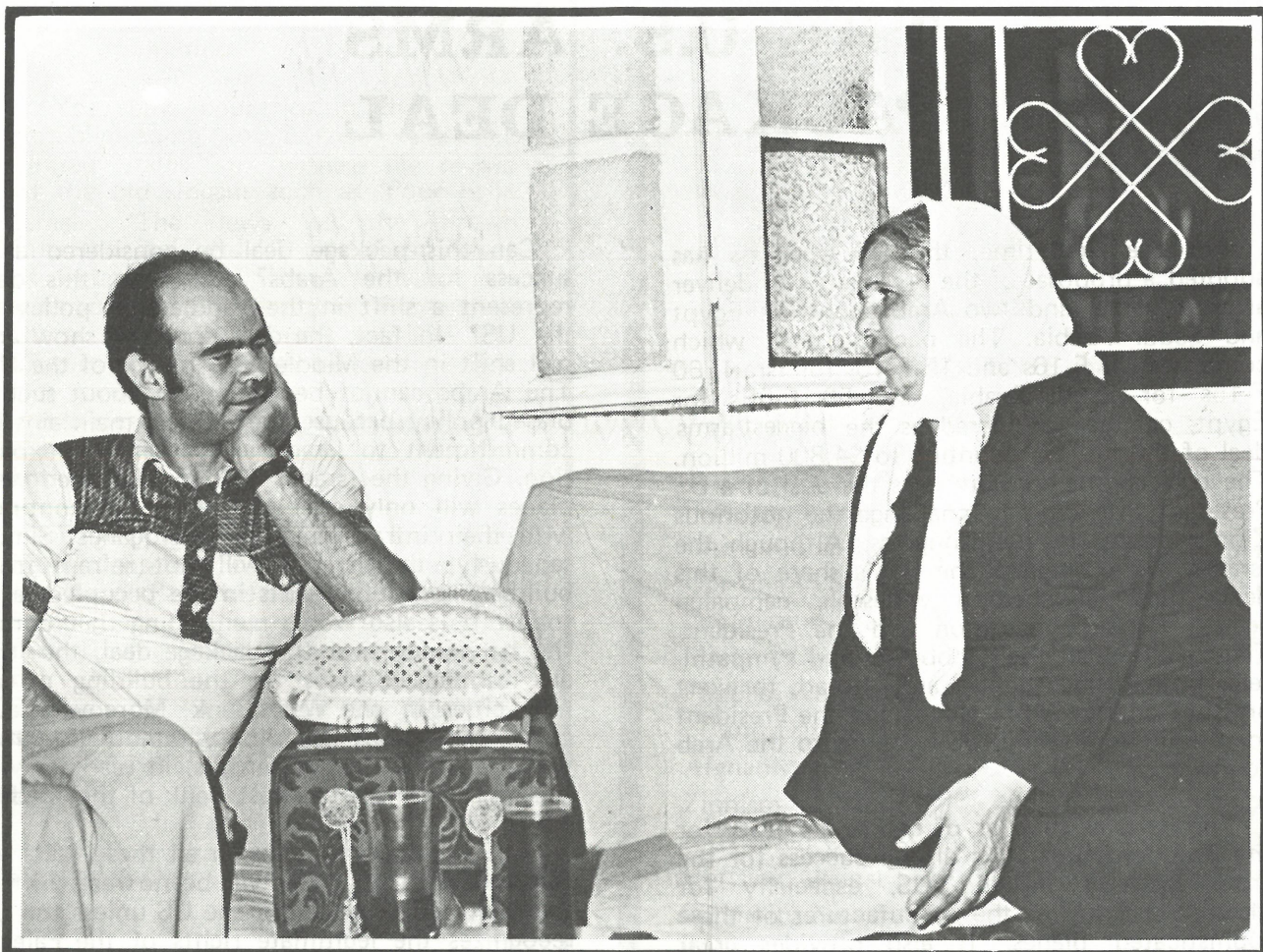
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DEEP ROOTED IN PALESTINE: A TALK WITH UM ALI



Um Ali to "Palestine's" Abu Ahmed: "It is impossible to forget....."

May 15, 1948, witnessed the establishment of the state of Israel on the land of Palestine, and the expulsion of the Palestinian people into the neighbouring Arab countries, and indeed throughout the entire world. On that day, our people were made to pay for the evils committed against the Jews by Nazism, and thus the Palestinian 'diaspora' began.

Our thirty years of refuge and suffering have failed to make our people surrender. Instead, every day, our people become more committed to the revolution,

under the leadership of the PLO, our sole legitimate representative. Everyday, our people express their readiness to make sacrifices along the road to liberation, so much so that rarely does one find a family that does not have a martyred son or relative. On the 30th anniversary of the usurpation of Palestine, 'Palestine Bulletin' talked with Um Ali, an old Palestinian woman from the Gallilean city of Nazareth, who has had three of her sons martyred and one injured along the road to liberation. Following are excerpts from her discussion of the present phase of the Palestinian struggle and her recol-

lections concerning the struggle during the 1930s and 1940s.

The struggle in the 1930s.

"We were fighting against the British Mandate authorities who used to treat us as if we were slaves. At that time the fighters were known as 'Thowar', (revolutionaries). The British soldiers used to storm our city, along with other cities and villages, and round up the men and beat them. Once I saw them parading some men along the street with ropes fitted to their necks, and others they would push with the bayonets of

their guns, and ride on their backs as if they were donkeys. Most men left for the mountains and joined the 'Thowar'.

"At the time of the 1936 rebellion I was thirteen years old. My father was one of the 'Thowar' who were outlawed. They used to receive food supplies secretly from their fellow citizens. Many times I did this work. I used to carry ammunition to them.

"Once Ahmed, a relative of mine, came to our house carrying a basket full of figs. He told me to carry them to a certain place far outside the city where he would be waiting for me. I lifted the basket and found it very heavy. 'What iron-heavy figs are these?' I asked, 'Look here,' Ahmed said, 'tomorrow the British are going to launch an attack on the mountain. If you don't do what I tell you, your father and the others will be killed.'

"No sooner had Ahmed left than I raised the basket to my head and went to the appointed place. The journey was long and the weight of the basket's contents made it longer. To my surprise, I suddenly found myself only 50 yards away from a British barricade, with an armoured personnel carrier blocking my way to the mountain area. I had no choice but to go on. When I drew near, I said, 'Hello, do you like fresh figs?' with one hand holding the basket firm on my head and the other hand picking figs from it and giving them to the British soldiers, making sure not to give them any time to question me. 'Thank you', one of them said. 'But where are you going in this midday sun, child?' another asked. 'My father sent me to deliver these figs to my aunt in the nearby village,' I answered without stopping.

"I met Ahmed, and we continued on our way to the mountain. There I discovered that my basket was full of hand grenades, with only a layer of figs around. Really,

The next day there was an attack on the 'Thowar' bases, but it was a failure."

On the 1948 Struggle.

"We were living together, Muslims, Christians, and Jews as Palestinian citizens. It is Britain that is to blame for the immigration of western Jews, (the Zionists). The British mandate authorities helped them form their military organizations, the Hagana, Stern Gang, and the Irgun, and supplied them with various weapons. However, we were capable of resisting them.

"No less a blame, however, should be borne by the Arab regimes who sent the so-called 'Arab Army for the Salvation of Palestine'. It turned out as if that army had been sent to Palestine to restrict the Palestinian movement so as to give way to the Zionists peacefully, and let them capture Palestinian land they had failed to get in the fighting. They forced the Palestinian fighters to join this army and fight an 'organized war'

"It is impossible to forget, son," Um Ali added after a sigh, "I will never forget that moment on June 17, 1948. It happened that Nimer Abu Na'aj, an ex-officer in the border guards, from the village of Saffouria, came to our house in a panic. He told us that the Zionists had captured Shafamr and that they were shelling Saffouria.

"That night we learned that Saffouria had fallen into the hands of the Zionists, and that they had started shelling Nazareth itself. We went to the headquarters of the 'Army of Salvation' unit in the city, to demand weapons. There, Nimer said to the commander, 'If you don't want to let your own soldiers fight, release the Palestinian fighters from your army, and give us the weapons to defend our villages.' The commander ignored his request, saying 'It's too late and I haven't the orders to fight, yet. Leave the city for about two weeks and everything will be settled.'

"At that moment, Nimer took off his Kafeya, (Palestinian head scarf), and started waving it towards Saffouria, saying "Goodbye Saffouria, I pledge to return'.

"And so it was; after two weeks everything was settled in the interests of the enemy."

On the Present Palestinian Struggle.

"I proudly say that I had three sons martyred on the road to liberation. I consider them three roses planted on the path back to Palestine. Two of them, Ali and Ahmed, are my own sons, the third, Mohammed, is not mine, but I brought him up with my sons since he was thirteen years old, after his own mother's death. My fourth son, Mahmoud, was wounded in the eight days war, last March, confronting the Israeli fighter aircraft when they tried to attack our camps around Beirut.

"We have no choice but to resist and fight. We have to defend ourselves in the camps and to liberate our land, Palestine. There are many conspiracies against us which try to liquidate our revolution and cause. Israel is not our sole enemy; its agents in Lebanon are also our enemies. All our people have to be trained, even our old men, women, and children. I, myself, am trained, and have a pistol and a Kalashnikov.

"I am not interested in what some women do, 'armed' with their handbags, and paying visits. I spend my time with my sons, the fighters, in their base. There is no military commando base that I have not been to. They call me 'mother Um Ali'. Whenever there has been a battle, I have been with them. I go there with the cars carrying ammunition and food-stuffs. I look after the wounded and take them to the back lines, so that they can be taken to hospital. My best times are when I am with the fighters. Really, I will be with them until I am martyred, or until I return to Palestine with them."

PALESTINE NOTES

PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE

The PLO Central Council issued the following communique, which was read at a press conference, at noon, on May 21:—

"The PLO Central Council met in Damascus on the 20th and 21st of May under the chairmanship of Khaled al-Fahoum, President of the Palestinian National Congress, and in the presence of the Chairman and members of the PLO Executive Committee. The participants listened to a comprehensive review of the Arab situation and the latest developments of the Palestine cause on the local, Arab and international levels, to an explanation of the aims of the Zionist attack on Lebanon and its effects, and the course of the heroic battle waged by the forces of the Palestinian Revolution and the nationalist forces against this aggression; and to the results of the contacts and activities carried out by the PLO Executive Committee in the recent period. The Council ended the meeting by stressing the following:—

First: On the Palestinian level.

"1. The Council calls for overcoming all obstacles in the way of national unity and all marginal differences, and for developing inter-Palestinian relations through a democratic dialogue between the various factions of the resistance movement, in order to reach an

advanced stage of joint unified action in accordance with the foundations and relations of a broad front, and on the basis of a clear unified program based on the resolutions of the Palestinian National Congress. This is necessary in order to develop the ability to confront the challenges of this phase, foremost among which are US-Israeli plots to impose a capitulationist settlement in the region, which contradicts the national rights of our people and the interests of the Arab Nation.

"2. The Council stresses that confronting the Zionist enemy and the imperialist forces backing it requires serious and relentless work, in order that the forces of the Revolution may exercise their responsibilities and tasks via all the fronts surrounding Palestine, and do away with all the obstacles preventing this action.

"3. The Council salutes our people under occupation who bravely confront the Zionist enemy, its hostile and colonialist policies, its fascist and racist practices, and its liquidationary projects. It also salutes the people's rallying around the PLO and its political program, and calls on Arab, Islamic and friendly states to support this heroic steadfastness both materially and morally.

"4. The Council recommends the convening of the National

Congress in mid-August, leaving the site of the meeting to be decided on later.

Second: On the Arab level:

"1. While reaffirming its belief in the importance and necessity of Arab solidarity, the Council believes that this solidarity should serve the Arab nation's goals of liberation, return, and regaining the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people. It also stresses that Arab solidarity in its sound basis and content, must be founded on the necessity of confronting the Zionist occupation and the imperialist forces backing its aggression and expansion.

"This solidarity requires the dedication of all Arab political, military economic and oil potentials to the service of the Arab Nation's causes, particularly the Palestine question, and against the Zionist enemy and its plots, and the forces participating in and backing its aggression, mainly the USA which is hostile to the aspirations of the Arab Nation and denies the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, headed by their right to return, to exercise self-determination, and to establish their independent national state over their national soil, under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

"On this basis, the Central Council rejects the call for any Arab Summit in the shadow of President Sadat's policy.

"2. The Council reiterates the necessity of consolidating the Confrontation and Steadfastness Front and its strategic political line, and of striving to hold a summit of the front at the first opportunity in order to complete its Charter and put forth a plan of action for the coming phase.

"3. The Council recommends the speedy implementation of the decision taken by the Confrontation and Steadfastness Summit in Algiers to contact Iraq with a view to its joining the Front and carrying out its responsibilities therein.

"4. The Council salutes the people of Egypt and their national forces struggling to protect the true interests of the Arab Nation and to confront all suspect projects that contradict the national rights of the Palestinian people for the benefit of Zionism and US imperialism.

"5. The Council salutes the Arab masses for their honest and persistent stand in defending and backing the Palestinian Revolution, particularly their material and moral support for the Revolution's forces during their confrontation of the Zionist invasion of South Lebanon.

Third: On the international level:

"The Council stresses the necessity of striving to strengthen the potentials of the Palestinian Revolution and of the Arab forces that reject the American-Israeli capitulationist plans, and the necessity of strengthening the bonds of friendship and the alliances with friendly states, led by the USSR and the socialist, Islamic and non-aligned states, in order to acquire the means to regain our rights and put an end to the oppression that has befallen our people since 1948.

"The Arab potentials committed to liberation, and supported by the friends of our just cause, are able to realize our nationalist and pan-Arab goals and to repel the capitulationist line that contradicts the interests of our people and Nation."



ARAFAT RECEIVES
GUYER IN DAMASCUS

Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and General Commander of the forces of the Palestinian Revolution, met UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim's Assistant for Political Affairs, Roberto Guyer, and Dr. Waldheim's Secretary G. Jonas at his office in Damascus on May 21. On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by Abu Lutf, Head of the PLO Political Department, and Basil Aqel, head of the US and Europe section of the Political Department.

In a statement, Abu Lutf declared that the purpose of the meeting was to clarify many points raised by declarations made by certain UNIFIL commanders in Lebanon. He added that these clarifications were doubtless sufficient because the UNIFIL's mission is centered on guaranteeing the Israeli forces' withdrawal from South Lebanon and that the PLO will aid the UNIFIL in every possible way, but at the same time will not let the UNIFIL infringe on its rightful presence aimed at guaranteeing the Israeli withdrawal.

GUPW COMMUNIQUE ON 30th ANNIVERSARY OF USURPATION OF PALESTINE

In a communique issued on the 30th anniversary of the usurpation of Palestine, the General Secretariat of the General Union of Palestinian Workers said that this occasion brings to mind the painful reality, in which the Arab nation is living, especially following President Sadat's visit to Israel. It described as suspicious all moves to achieve pan-Arab solidarity at a time when contacts with the Zionist enemy are still underway, asserting that effective Arab solidarity can only be realized through the Arab Confrontation and Steadfastness Front.

The GUPW hailed the heroic resistance of the fighters of the Palestinian Revolution and the LNM during the battles in South Lebanon, underlining the Revolution's right to carry out its commando activities from bases inside Lebanon, as stipulated in the agreements concluded between the PLO and the Lebanese authorities.

FAHOUM RECEIVES ZANU DELEGATION IN DAMASCUS

Khalid al-Fahoum, President of the Palestinian National Congress, on May 18, received the African National Federation Party (ZANU) delegation headed by Robert Mugabe, which is currently visiting Syria. The meeting was also attended by PLO Executive Committee members, Muhammad Zuhdi Al-Nashashibi, and Talal Naji, by the Fateh representative in Syria, Abu Ammar Saad, and by Omar Al-Shahabi, member of the PFLP-General Command Political Bureau. During the meeting, Fahoum reviewed the latest developments on the Palestinian, Arab and international theatres and expressed the Palestinian Revolu-

tion's "firm support for the National Liberation Movement, in Zimbabwe against Ian Smith's racist regime, and those who support it". Mugabe explained the situation in Zimbabwe and exposed Anglo-American plans to dominate the people of Zimbabwe. He moreover unveiled the relationship between the Smith regime in southern Africa and the Zionist regime in occupied Palestine.

At the end of the meeting, Khaled Al-Fahoum saluted the struggle in Zimbabwe and stressed that "the enemy is one and the same, and, therefore, the goals of the two peoples, the Palestinian and the Zimbabwean, should be the same." Mugabe finally expressed the people of Zimbabwe's full solidarity with the just struggle of the Palestinian people to return to their land and establish their independent democratic state there.

PLO PARTICIPATES IN CONFERENCE ON RACISM

The PLO participated in the International Conference for the eradication of Racism and Racial discrimination which ended its meetings in Basle, Switzerland on May 21. The meeting was attended by representatives of 62 countries, by UN Secretary-General Dr Kurt Waldheim's Assistant for political and security affairs, by a delegate of the Committee of 23 on Palestinian rights, and by representatives of the Organization of African Unity, the World Peace Council, and various other international bodies. During the conference, the PLO representative spoke about racial discrimination in occupied Palestine, and the conference condemned Zionist expansionist policy, the expulsion of Palestinian citizens after demolishing their houses, the seizure of Palestinian land, and the economic exploitation of Palestinian citizens. The conference moreover expressed its solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people to regain their land, under the leadership of the PLO.

INTERNATIONAL LAW AND SOUTH LEBANON

by Faris Glubb

The scale and complexity of the Israeli attack on South Lebanon, in which some 25,000 Israeli troops were deployed and an estimated 1000 Arab civilians killed, make it clear that this was not a spontaneous response to the PLO raid on the Haifa-Tel Aviv road four days earlier. A military campaign of that size requires considerable planning and preparation, and it is clear that the Israelis had planned it and prepared for it long in advance. They simply used the PLO raid as a convenient pretext for an action that they had long intended to carry out when the occasion offered.

Even taking the pretext at face value, it is worth examining whether such an attack can be justified in terms of international law. In other words, does international law allow the government of one state to invade another state as a reprisal for acts of resistance carried out by people whose territory had earlier been occupied by the first state? And does international law recognise the right of a people whose land has been invaded and occupied to resist that occupation? On the answers to these two questions depends the legality or illegality of the Israeli action against South Lebanon.

In the earliest stages of the development of international law, the laws of war were considered to apply only to regular armies responsible to the recognised governments of established states. Until the latter part of the nineteenth century, resistance movements had no legal status, since they were irregular forces generally not subject to the control of a recognised government. The enemy thus usually considered them to be unprotected by international law, and frequently shot them out of hand, as the Prussians during the Franco-Prussian war used to execute the francs-tireurs, members of an irregular French militia.

This particular savagery brought the realisation that there was a deficiency in international law, and the first attempt was made to remedy it in 1899 with the Hague Regulations on the Laws and Customs of War on Land. Article 1 of these recognised the right of irregular forces to resist occupation subject to four criteria of combatant status which had been drawn up by the 1874 Brussels Conference. These were that such forces should be under a responsible command, should wear a distinctive sign visible from a distance, should carry arms openly and

should themselves observe the laws and customs of war.

Recognition by international law of the right to resist enemy occupation made great strides during World War II. The European Resistance movements fighting Nazi occupation gained recognition of their legal status, and also support, from several governments, including that of Britain (1). It would be ludicrous to claim, although the Nazis tried to do so, that the Norwegian, French or Yugoslav resistance movements, for instance, were acting illegally, or that the British government violated international law by helping them to resist occupation or by allowing them in certain cases to operate from its territory.

Some anti-Nazi resistance movements gained recognition even before they actually constituted a government. Britain recognised the French Committee of National Liberation on 26 August 1943 (2), and the Allies recognised the Maquis as the French Forces of the Interior in June 1944 (3). The Nazis, in their Barbarossa Jurisdiction Order and *Nach und Nebel* decree, denied resistance movements legal combatant status, but the Nuremberg Tribunal defined acts carried out under these two directives as war crimes. (4).

A well-known international legal expert has noted not only that Nazi Germany "treated guerrillas as illegitimate combatants", but also that in the later stages of the war some of its broadcasts proclaimed that "all the rules of warfare are obsolete and must be thrown overboard". (5)

The Geneva Conventions of 1949 constituted a total rejection by the world community of this sort of Nazi logic, and firmly established the legal belligerent status of resistance movements. Article 4 of the Third Convention, for instance, specified that members

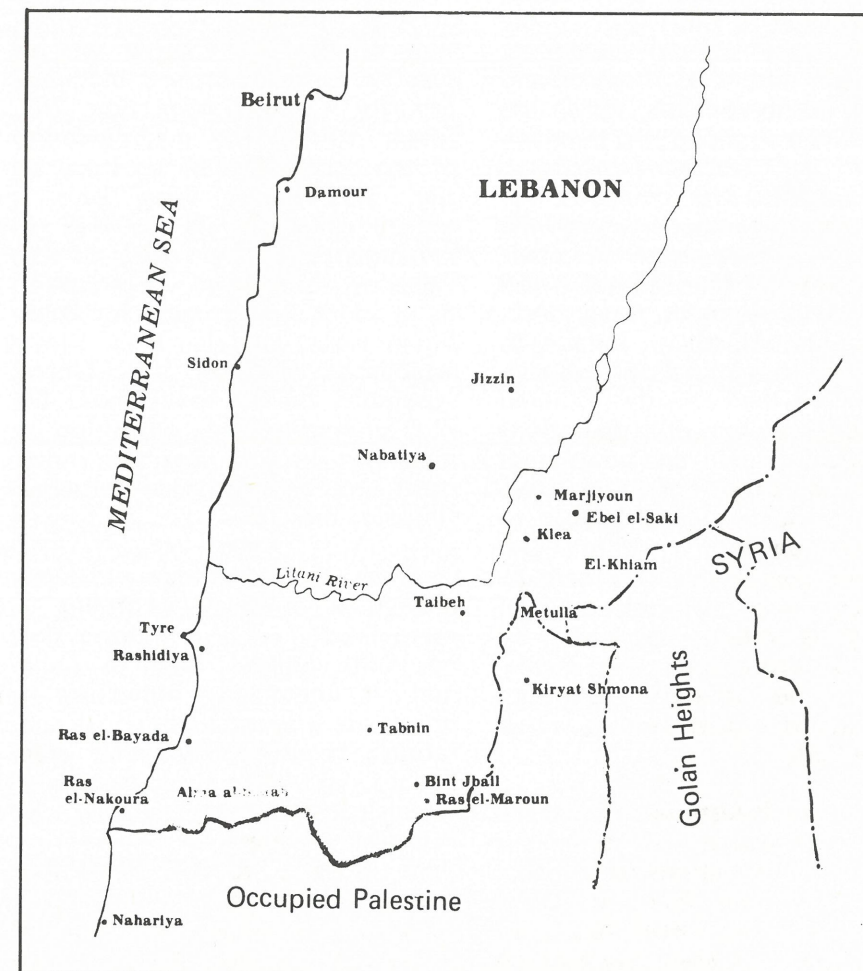
of organised resistance movements were entitled to prisoner of war status, provided they fulfilled the four criteria laid down by the Hague Regulations.

Israel is a signatory to the Geneva Conventions, and is thus theoretically supposed to conform to the principles embodied in them. Instead, it treats guerrillas as illegitimate combatants and refuses to accord them prisoner of war status when captured, generally imprisoning them with common criminals. The Israeli attitude has provoked some international condemnation; for instance the Conference of International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Istanbul in September 1969 adopted a resolution calling for recogni-

tion of the right of Palestinian guerrillas to prisoner-of-war status. It is a sad irony that Israel insists on keeping alive Nazi interpretations of international law in this respect.

Israel has alleged that the Palestinian Resistance does not conform to laws and customs of war since its operations have resulted in civilian deaths. A number of facts should be borne in mind in this respect.

The first point to be noted, without, in any way, condoning the loss of innocent lives, is that a very high proportion of those killed in all modern wars, from World War II to Vietnam, have



Israel's invasion of Sth. Lebanon: no basis in international law.

INTERNATIONAL LAW AND SOUTH LEBANON

primarily at civilian targets, such as Summua village in the West Bank on 13-November 1966 and the Jordan Valley refugee camps in late 1967 and early 1968. Fatah and other guerrilla organisations warned that, if such actions went on, they would have to revise their policy of avoiding Israeli civilian casualties.

In its punitive raids against South Lebanon before the recent invasion, Israel tended to strike mainly at civilians. Thus, in its air raids against the villages of Azziya and Hinniya in November 1977, the Israeli Air Force killed over 100 civilians, mostly Lebanese.

It is clear that international law as it stands today, particularly in the light of its development over the past century, affirms the right to a people whose land is occupied to fight back against the invader. The continued Israeli occupation of Arab territories is a clear violation of the UN Charter and of specific UN resolutions including Security Council resolution 242, which affirms the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war, and which Israel says it accepts although it declines to implement it. The right of the Palestine Liberation Organisation to conduct the struggle for Palestinian rights has also been firmly established by the UN General Assembly, which has granted the PLO unprecedented recognition by making it the first liberation movement to be accorded observer status at the UN.

Since the Palestinian resistance movement is legal according to international law, it follows that no Arab country, such as Lebanon, is under any obligation to prevent it from conducting its operations. It also follows that Israel has no right of reprisal (particularly against innocent civilians), for Palestinian guerrilla operations, since international law holds that reprisals by belligerents are admissible only in response to acts of illegitimate warfare. (6) The inva-

sion of South Lebanon cannot therefore be justified on such grounds.

The UN Security Council was thus quite correct in calling for the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces. On April 6, almost three weeks after the adoption of this resolution, Israel stated its intention of withdrawing in two phases, with the first phase involving withdrawal from only a fraction of the Lebanese territory it had seized. UN Secretary General Dr. Kurt Waldheim pointed out that this was highly inadequate.

Earlier, Israeli leaders had made statements laying down conditions for compliance with the resolution. As has been the case with so many previous UN resolutions, the Israeli government seems to be resorting to delaying tactics in order to avoid fulfilling its legal obligations.

The lesson that the world should draw from the events in South Lebanon is that, unless and until the international community can persuade Israel to show some respect for the principles of international law, the chances of any just lasting peace coming to the Middle East are remote.

From Middle East
International, May 1978.

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Giscard d'Estaing and Mobutu: usurping Zaire's wealth.

UPRISING IN SHABA:

WESTERN TROOPS MOVE IN

Once again the Shaba province of Zaire has witnessed an armed uprising against the Mobuto regime, which has turned Shaba in particular, and Zaire in general, into a colony for western imperialism to usurp the country's resources and wealth. And once again western imperialism, represented by the USA, Belgium, and France have militarily intervened to support Mobuto's regime, the protector of their interests and monopolies, and the local agent of the CIA in the area. The only difference now, owing to the size of the uprising, on the mass and military levels, is that the imperialists found themselves in a critical situation, with no choice but to openly and directly intervene, under the cover of the 'evacuation of foreign nationals in Zaire'. It is

the same cover used for direct imperialist military intervention in several places in the world, (Lebanon in 1958 for instance). Another cover is that of supporting existing regimes against 'Soviet-backed invasions'. France has used this cover for intervention in several other parts of the African continent in order to suppress national and progressive movements.

In fact, the present French-mastered, joint western intervention in Zaire raises questions about France's growing military involvement in Africa generally. Twelve thousand French troops are in battle zones or on garrison duty in various parts of the continent. After last year's French airlift to Zaire, France promised similar aid

to any other black African state "threatened from the outside by Soviet-backed opposition". This has resulted in the permanent French base at Dakar, in Senegal, being reinforced to back up military operations in Mauretania, and Chad in West Africa, and the stationing of a permanent garrison in Djibouti in north-east Africa.

The allegations of the so-called 'outside backed' invasion of Zaire is far from the reality. The fact is that what has been going on in Zaire since Mobuto assumed power, is an internal conflict between the ruling dictatorship and the angry malcontented masses; between these impoverished masses struggling to restore their soldout rights and resources, and a bloody regime brutally suppressing their uprisings, defending the interests of its imperialist masters who support and protect it as a means to rifle the resources of the country.

The fact that Shaba, (formerly Katanga), has the richest resources in Zaire makes the citizens of that province, as opposed to the Zairean people as a whole, more sensitive as to how their resources are exploited, and monopolized by foreign businesses and firms. It is natural then, that the spearhead of the opposition to the Mobuto regime erupts from Shaba, for which the Shaba people have suffered the most from the regime's brutality.

However, the corruption of the Mobuto regime speaks for itself. The economy has been severely depressed. At the time of independence, in 1960, Zaire was the richest country in black Africa. But rather than using the wealth of the nationalised businesses and firms for agricultural and other internal development, Mobuto embarked, in the late 60s, on an overly ambitious program that would serve only the fortunate elite. Moreover he awarded the confiscated businesses to his friends. In some cases, the new operators merely sold the merchandise that was in stock and then closed down.

Mobuto has even reversed a

French paratroops in Kolwezi:
the new colonialism.



policy of bringing businesses under the control of Zaireans, announced with great fanfare in 1973; he has invited back the foreign owners of plantations, corporations and even shops.

Owing to these corrupt policies, Mobuto is faced with a foreign debt of nearly \$3 billion, with no foreign exchange to pay it. So, Mobuto has capitulated to the demands of foreign creditors, who demand that control be in the hands of foreigners to "check government spending."

Moreover, inflation is galloping at 75%. With a heavily overvalued currency, black market dealing is rife. Shortages of essential commodities are aggravated by the absence of foreign exchange, transportation breakdowns, and factories operating at 50% capacity for lack

of spare parts. Only 1/4 of the people in the capital of Kinshasa are working. Crime rates have risen, students cannot find jobs, even the cost of medicine is out of the people's reach.

More significantly, the army is being purged along tribal lines. Hundreds of officers from Shaba, Bandundu, and East and West Kasai provinces are being ousted. A revolt earlier this year was brutally suppressed by paratroops. During a recent 'treason trial' involving 89 defendants, 13 officers were executed. All this stresses the widespread dissatisfaction with the regime.

To put an end to the atrocities of the Mobuto regime, and to restore the wealth of their country, the Zairean masses found no alternative but to resort to armed

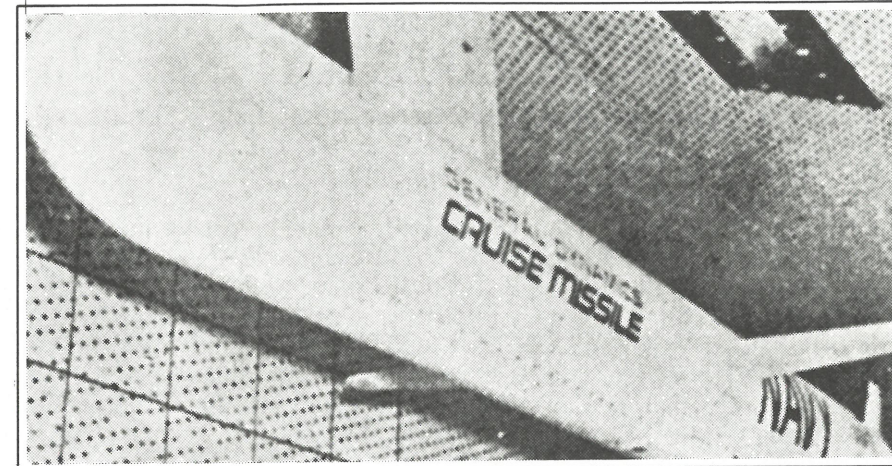
struggle to overthrow the regime. Concerning the allegations of Mobuto and the west, that the 'Katangese gendarmes' are separatists, it is a clear cut fact that these so-called 'Katangese gendarmes' are in reality the National Front for the Liberation of the Congo, (FNLC). The Front is one of seven organizations all struggling for the overthrow of Mobuto, seeking the well-being of the people of Zaire as a whole. Besides the FNLC we may mention the Popular Revolutionary Party and the Action Front for the Reconstruction of the Congo, who all deny the allegations that they are followers of Moise Tshombi, the late Katangan separatist leader.

Enabled to temporarily put an end to the recent Shaba uprising, Mobuto flew to France to express his gratitude to the French Pre-

sident for the 'rescue mission' that rescued the latter's regime. Mobuto's criticism, there, of the Belgian government for not being as even-handed in its 'rescue mission' as France, uncovers the real aim of his visit. It is quite clear that Mobuto wants the French paratroops to remain in Shaba as long as possible, a hint that discloses his inability to face the expected new uprisings there. Moreover, his criticism of the Belgian government is a reflection of the differing attitudes of the western imperialists, concerning the best and safest means of saving his regime. For, although much attention is

paid to the rich copper resources of Shaba province, of far greater strategic importance is Shaba's reserves of cobalt and uranium, which the western imperialists covet for their future nuclear energy programs.

Being the watchdog of imperialist interests in Zaire, and the CIA's African agent on the continent in general — as his recently uncovered role in the Angolan civil war illustrates — he shares bilateral interests with other imperialist watchdogs, notably Israel. The Zionist state trains his paratroops and supplies his army with various military equipment. This is an expression of gratitude from Israel for Mobuto's role in blocking a call for the expulsion of Israel from the UN during a conference of the Organization of African Unity in 1975, and, to a lesser extent, at a meeting of the non-aligned countries in August of the same year.



CRUISE MISSILES BEING TESTED IN SHABA BY WEST GERMANY

West Germany has taken over an area of 100,000 square miles of land in the Shaba province of Zaire, to "produce and test Cruise and intermediate range ballistic missiles," (Guardian, December 15, 1977).

The area, almost as large as the German Democratic Republic, was leased to a West German company, supported by the Bonn military budget to the tune of up to \$300 million, (The Times, December 14, 1977). The company, 'OTRAG' was given "unlimited rights" to use the territory for launching missiles, under a non-cancellable 24 year contract. It was also granted powers to 'evacuate' people from the territory.

The revelations, contained in the American magazine, 'Penthouse', and written by an American diplomatic correspondent, say that the testing program is in "deliberate disregard" of the 1954 Brussels Treaty, and that it is going ahead with the support of the American government, (The Times, December 14, 1977).

It is no wonder that Zaire President, Mobuto, is keen on the project, since he collects approximately \$50 million annually, with which to fill his own coffers, from the lease agreement. The company has leased the land with virtually sovereign powers over it, and this is another reason why the Zairean people of the Shaba province have risen up against the Mobuto regime, which is one of the most savage and oppressive regimes in Africa. The need to protect the imperialist interests represented in this missile range, were undoubtedly a major reason contributing to the present imperialist occupation of parts of Shaba under the pretext of evacuating European residents in the region.

OCCUPATION DIARY

PROTEST AT UNRWA MEASURES CONTINUES

UNRWA teachers and employees in the West Bank sent a memorandum to the UNRWA General Commissioner, in which they expressed solidarity with the teachers who will be dismissed as of next July. Those teachers had earlier received from the UNRWA administration a note saying that if the \$ 27 million deficit was not settled by May 31st, the agency will be forced to dismiss a number of elementary school teachers.

HAARETZ: WEST BANK MAYORS REFUSE BEGIN'S SELF-RULE PROPOSAL

The Zionist newspaper *Haaretz*, on May 18, reported that the majority of West Bank Mayors and notables oppose the self-rule project put forth by Israeli Prime Minister, Menahem Begin during his meeting with the Israeli military governors of the West Bank.

The newspaper quoted the Mayor of Hebron, Fahd Al-Qawas-meh, as saying that there will be no peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict until Israel completely withdraws from all the occupied territories, for "we refuse to live under occupation whatever the price." *Haaretz* carried a similar declaration by the Halhoul Mayor, Muhammad Melhem.

ISRAELI CHANGES IN WEST BANK JUDICIAL PROCEDURES PLANNED

After annulling by means of military decision 745, the laws regarding lawyers, engineers, and doctors applied before the occupation of 1967, the Zionist Ministry of Justice has assigned a number of Israeli jurists to supervise the civil courts in the West Bank as an initial step towards annulling the civil laws applied before 1967.

It is worth mentioning that the Geneva agreement and other international conventions forbid military occupation authorities from intervening in the judicial affairs of the civil administration of occupied territories, and from changing the laws applied before the occupation.

850 BOOKS BANNED IN WEST BANK

The Israeli authorities in the West Bank have banned the circulation of around 850 books by Arab and Palestinian writers dealing with a wide range of subjects. Jerusalem newspapers recently reported that bookshop-owners were threatened with having their shops closed should they contravene orders.

Earlier this year, the Israeli authorities had also banned a wide collection of books which they labelled "subversive".

DEMONSTRATIONS IN WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP ON MAY 15th ANNIVERSARY

In spite of the unprecedented security measures taken by the occupation authorities on the 30th anniversary of the foundation of Israel, the Zionist entity, demonstrations were staged on May 15 in various parts of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Pamphlets calling on the population to resist the occupation and to hold fast to its homeland were distributed all over the occupied territories "Armed struggle and people's war are the only path to victory," the communiqué said. It added that all suspect plots in the region can be foiled through national unity within the framework of the PLO, and through the unity of the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied homeland.

ZIONIST SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY STEPPED UP

In March, Israeli War Minister, Ezer Weizman, supposedly came out opposed to the building of new Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab lands and territories. This precipitated, according to the western press, a cabinet split in Israel between the pro-settlement 'hawks' led by Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon and the so-called anti-settlement 'doves' led by Weizman. However, as has been admitted by Weizman's aides, his views were "prompted by concern for the effect the Nabi Saleh (settlement) activities would have on his Washington negotiations, rather than any fundamental opposition to the settler movement," (Reuters, May 23, 1978).

Keeping the above in mind, it comes as no surprise that the Zionist authorities have recently escalated their settlement and land confiscation activities in occupied Arab and Palestinian lands. Indeed it has proven to be the case that behind many of these activities has been the War Department and its Minister, Weizman, himself.

On May 14, Israeli television revealed that upon the initiative of the Agriculture Minister, and Head of the Ministerial Settlement Committee, Ariel Sharon, three new colonies were to be set up in the West Bank. One was to be established east of Bethlehem, and the others east and north-west of Jerusalem, respectively.

The Israeli newspaper, *Al-Hamishmar*, revealed that settlers are working on transforming approximately 300 dunums, (about 75 acres) of land overlooking Rafah, in Gaza, into a new agricultural colony. A well had been dug and a special budget allocation had

been made for the work, the newspaper said.

On May 18, the Israeli authorities announced plans to settle 160,000 new Zionist colonists in six urban centres, based on six small existing settlements in the West Bank. The plan, backed by none other than War Minister Weizman, and drawn up by his department, calls for the construction of 38,000 housing units in areas surrounding Jerusalem. Among the new urban centres are the following:— Karnei Shamron, Haris, and Nabi Saleh, all north of Jerusalem, Maale Edomim, east of the city, and Efrat, north of Bethlehem. A Zionist official said that the idea behind the plan is to concentrate the human potentialities of the Zionist state in one area.

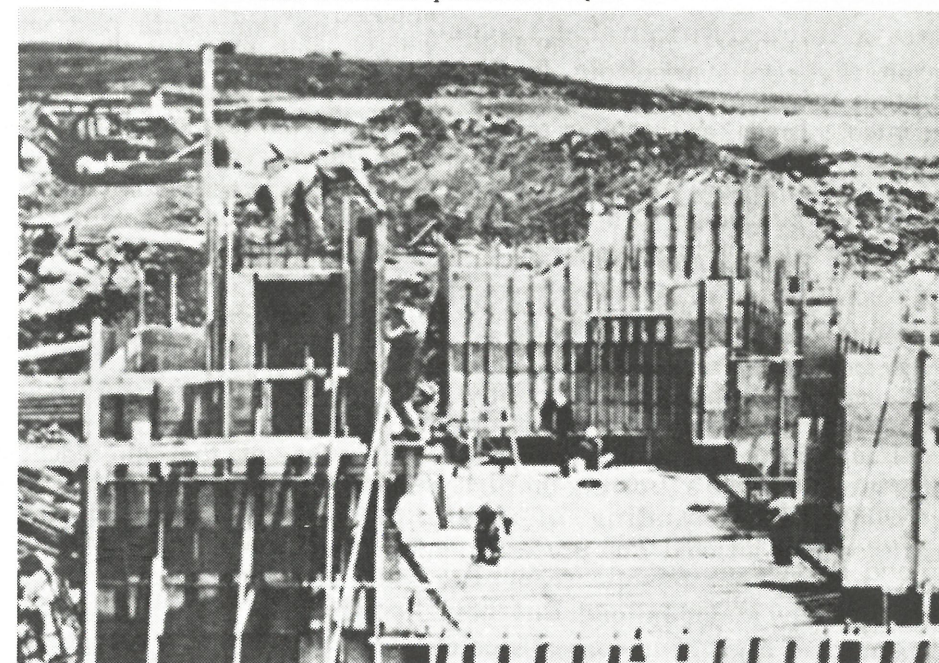
Five families affiliated to the fanatical Gosh Imonim Zionist Movement seized a plot of land between Nablus and Ramallah, and it was reported that this colony is part of the settlement project put forth by War Minister Weizman.

A War Ministry spokesman, on May 22, said that a large parcel of land for settlement purposes was recently confiscated in the West Bank. Hundreds of dunums of land in the Nabi Saleh region have also been recently confiscated as part of the preparations for new settlements.

As well as taking over land belonging to Palestinians living outside Palestine, the Zionist authorities are also fencing off land which, prior to 1967, was government owned. Occupation authorities, reports Reuters, May 22, have always confiscated the land of West Bank residents who fled to other Arab countries. "But now... land belonging to Palestinians living in the United States is also being taken over."

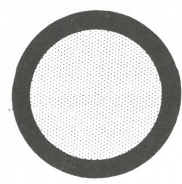


Israeli settlements: permanent occupation.



The recent upsurge in land confiscation and settlement activities must be seen in the light of Israeli intransigence and arrogance towards the Palestinian people, and towards all international calls for the return of occupied Arab and Palestinian land. In the face of

these continued illegal seizures by the Zionists, in violation of all international laws, the Palestinian people are committed and determined to resist until they achieve their human and national rights.



MILITARY OPERATIONS



WEST BANK COMMANDO ATTACKS ON 15 MAY

A number of commando attacks were carried out in the West Bank on May 15, in spite of intense Israeli security precautions, and restrictions on movement involving dozens of extra check points, including 15 on the Nablus-Jerusalem road.

In Nablus, where 24 armoured vehicles were stationed in the main square, at dawn on 15 May, Palestinian commandos intermittently shelled the Israeli Ajneed camp situated on the Rafidiya-Nablus road where four rockets hit the camp. After the shelling, Israeli troops combed the city of Nablus and arrested dozens of Palestinian citizens. Explosive charges were also placed inside the Zionist Labour exchange in the city. Revolutionary pamphlets were distributed in all quarters of Nablus, especially the Qasabah and the Yasmita quarters.

In Jenin and Qabatiya, the Zionist authorities discovered a rocket aimed at an enemy camp facing the Qabatiya School, and

dismantled it. Following the incident, they encircled and imposed a curfew on Qabatiya village, and arrested dozens of Palestinians.

From the period, May 15 to May 22, the Palestinian Military Spokesman issued military communiques Nos. 50-55, referring to military operations carried out by the Palestinian Revolution. Following are slightly abridged versions of communiques, numbers 50 and 52-55.

No. 50/78:

In spite of the unprecedented security measures taken by the Israeli authorities, our special commando unit (B), operating inside occupied Palestine on May 15, placed several timed high explosive charges in the Mefratz area in the port of Haifa. The charges, which exploded one after the other at 10:05 PM on the same day, echoed throughout the area, burned the Kishon carpentry shops, and the agricultural machinery depots, and destroyed several storage rooms, the electricity network of the port and other utilities and depots.

Radio Israel admitted the operation and said that material losses are estimated at millions of pounds. It added that all Palestinian citizens present in the area were arrested immediately for questioning.

No. 52/78:—

Acting on orders from the General Command of the forces of the Palestinian Revolution, one of our units early on the morning of May 17th, placed timed incendiary charges inside the warehouses of a paper factory in Hakishon street in the Beni Yarak suburb of Tel Aviv. At 7:30 AM, on the same day, the charges exploded setting the warehouses on fire. The blaze spread to other depots and lasted three hours in spite of attempts to control it by 12 fire engines. As a result, all the contents of the warehouses were burned, while one of them was completely destroyed. Most of the factory's machinery and two trucks were damaged, and a number of the enemy were injured. Total losses were estimated at IL 500,000. Meanwhile, the Israeli authorities arrested several Palestinian citizens in Tel Aviv for questioning. Our revolutionaries, nevertheless, returned safely to base.

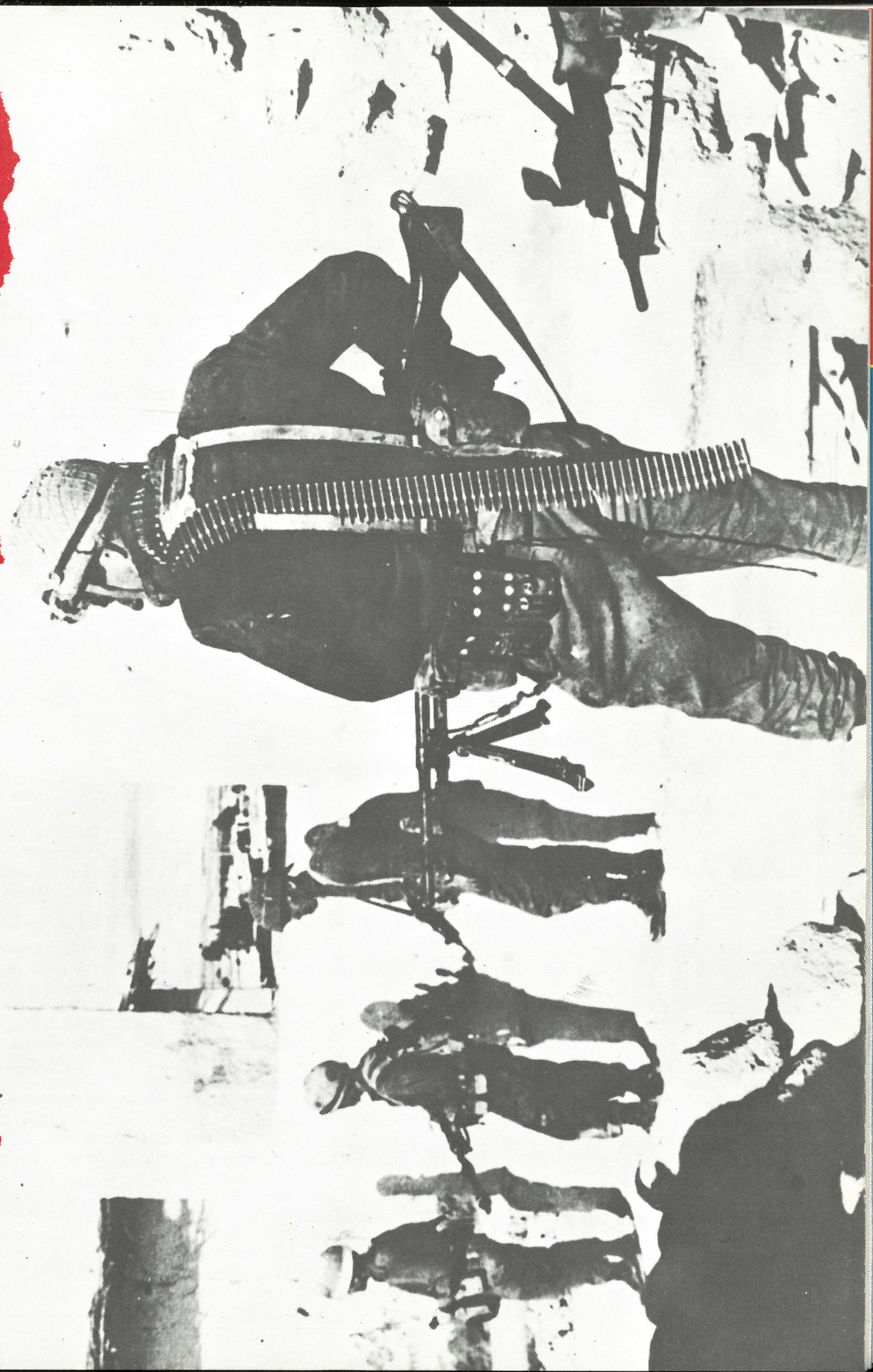
No. 53/78:—

A special combat unit, operating inside occupied Palestine, placed timed explosive charges inside a building used by Israeli officers in the Beni Brak quarter North-east of Tel Aviv.

The charges exploded on the morning of May 20, completely destroying four apartments, breaking the windows of neighbouring buildings, and damaging a number of cars parked nearby. Immediately after the explosion, police and frontier guards, vehicles and ambulances, were rushed to the scene to carry out rescue operations and transport the dead and wounded, while explosives experts searched neighbouring buildings and streets for charges. A widespread campaign of arrests followed the operation. Our commandos returned safely to base.



**IMMEDIATE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM
ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES**



No. 54/78:—

On the night of May 18, one of our commando units, operating inside occupied Palestine, placed timed explosive charges on the second floor of a four-storey building, used as offices for the Israeli intelligence service and civil guards on street No. 2 in the Berdis Cat suburb of Tel Aviv. The charges exploded at 2:00 AM on 19/5, destroying two floors of the building and damaging the other two, and killing or wounding a number of agents and guards who were inside the offices.

The wounded were only taken to hospital one hour later, after an intensive search for other charges in the surrounding buildings was completed.

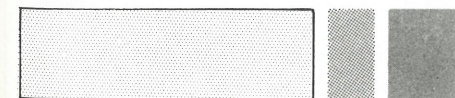
Immediately following the operation, police patrols were increased, and new check-points were erected in Tel Aviv and its outskirts, while a number of Palestinian citizens were arrested for alleged involvement in the operation. Our commandos, nevertheless, returned safely to base.

No. 55/78:—

At 11:15 PM on May 20, special commando unit 'D', operating inside occupied Palestine, attacked an Israeli police patrol which was doing its usual rounds in the Askar camp near Nablus, with incendiary bombs, and inflicted heavy losses on it.

While armoured vehicles were on their way to the camp to aid the police patrol at the request of the latter, our commandos attacked them also, inflicting heavy losses. Our commandos then returned safely to base.

After the operation, the Israeli authorities imposed a curfew on the Askar camp, and combed the surrounding area in search of our commandos.



Anti-Dayan march in Stockholm, Sweden, during his visit there in May.

POPULAR PROTESTS GREET BEGIN AND DAYAN IN U.S. AND EUROPE

Three decades have passed since the usurpation of Palestine and the implantation of the Zionist state of Israel in its place. This state has been maintaining a foreign policy aimed at legitimizing and winning support for its occupation of Palestine, and its rejection of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and statehood. Needless to say, Israeli policy has met with little success; to the contrary, its policy is being confronted by the peoples of the third world, and the peace-loving democratic and socialist peoples all over the world.

In celebrating the 30th anniversary of the usurpation of Palestine, Israel launched a diplomatic offensive in the 'west', which, despite the fact that the 'west' maintains Israel economically and militarily, is questioning, because of popular demands, its blind support for Zionist occupation and aggression. The popular protests that swept through Europe and the US during the visits of Prime Minister Begin and Foreign Minister Dayan to these regions, and during the so-called 30th anniversary celebrations, are clear testimony to this fact.

As part of the foreign campaign during the 'celebrations', Israeli Prime Minister Begin, visited the US on what was called a "fund and support raising campaign", but he was forced to realize that realities have changed. Wherever he went he was greeted by thousands of protesters demonstrating their resentment of Israel's policies and declaring their support for the Palestinian people. Even in such Zionist strongholds as New York, this was the case: "New York City police, the Secret Service, and Israeli Security officers guard both the mansion, (where Begin was staying), and City Hall. Helicopters flew overhead and tours by bomb-detecting dogs preceded Mr. Begin's appearance," wrote the Guardian, May 6, 1978. US Jews were amongst the protesters, and in one instance alone, "80 leaders of the umbrella organization, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, called on Begin for private talks, where a sharp exchange followed in which Mr. Begin suggested that criticizing him was akin to attacking Israel. He was asked if he actually meant that American Jews must not express dissent from Israel's policies," (Guardian, May 8, 1978).

"Israeli Prime Minister Denounced by Demonstrators" were the headlines of newspapers covering his tour of the US. Earlier in Chicago, where he had flown in to be made an 'honorary citizen' and to receive an honorary law degree from Northwestern University, "noisy demonstrators paraded shouting slogans such as 'Palestine is Arab', and 'Zionism is racism'. They carried signs, saying 'Begin, Yesterday's Terrorist, Today's Hero?', and 'Begin - A Degree in Genocide'", (United Press International, May 4). It is worth noting that a student referendum in April disapproved of conferring a degree on Begin, by 1,199 votes to 907, and that the university authorities have never explained the reasons for granting the degree.

On May 7, as the 'Israeli Day Parade' was being held in New York, nearly a thousand demonstrators denounced the Zionist



'No U.S. aid to Israel', chant demonstrators in New York City on May 7.

leadership, and in particular Begin, shouting slogans such as 'Zionism Must Go: Victory, Victory, PLO'. A representative of the Palestine Solidarity Committee spoke and said that the US had facilitated the growth of Zionist repression over the last year. She cited the examples of US supplied cluster bombs, the use of US made tear gas in the occupied territories, and the sending of information, by the CIA, to the Israeli government about Sami Esmail, resulting in his consequent arrest by the Zionist authorities.

Zuhdi Terzi, the PLO observer delegate to the UN, led the crowd in condemning Zionism as racism, and in reference to Begin's 'home rule' proposal for the West Bank and Gaza, said "We are opposed to any such Bantustan." A representative of the American Indian Movement and a black South African student leader also addressed the crowd.

Begin's latest tour of the US, and the so-called '30th Anniversary celebrations', amidst protests and demonstrations, makes one conclude that the Israeli policy of occupation and expansion is being

resented more and more, even in the US, the staunch supporter of Zionist aggression. There, the public is coming to realize that the 'long vision of the Palestinian people for statehood is the only thing deserving celebration.

While Begin was trotting around the US, Foreign Minister Dayan was on a tour of Europe for the same purpose; to gather support for the rejection of the Palestinian people's rights, under the cover of the '30th anniversary' of the usurpation of Palestine.

In Stockholm, where thousands of police were mobilized to ensure Dayan's safety, two anti-Israel demonstrations took place. Moreover, "thousands of pro-PLO demonstrators picketed a dinner for Dayan and his wife at Stockholm city hall" on May 11, (Associated Press, May 12, 1978). On the same day, United Press International reported that "Dayan stormed out of a news conference, infuriated by a question comparing him and Prime Minister Begin with 'terrorists of the highest order'."

In Helsinki, Finland, several demonstrations were held in which

banners were raised supporting the PLO, asking for an immediate Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories, and urging Dayan to leave Finland," (Associated Press).

Protests against Israeli policy during the thirty years of its occupation were also held in Brussels, where a guided missile aimed at the Israeli Embassy was uncovered, and which experts said was a "90 mm of the type used by western armies including the Belgian forces."

In Vienna, Austria, in the Middle of March, Jaakov Don, the Israeli Ambassador to Vienna, was recalled to Israel following widespread protests, and after "the Austrian Chancellor, Kreisky, and the Foreign Minister Herr Willibald Phar attacked Israel's refusal to grant the Palestinian people the right to self-determination," (Times, March 17, 1978).

A demonstration was staged on May 17 in Glasgow, Scotland, by

the Unions of Arab and British students on the 30th anniversary of the usurpation of Palestine. The demonstrators chanted slogans in support of the Palestinian Revolution, headed by the PLO, and denouncing the Zionist conspiracy against the Palestinians and the treasonous moves initiated by Sadat.

The demonstration ended in a rally at which speeches were delivered, stressing that peace in the area cannot be implemented without securing the national rights of the Palestinians, including the right to establish an independent state. The speakers also denounced the Zionist aggression on South Lebanon, and demanded the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces. A similar mass rally and demonstration was held in London on the same day.

In the Hague, demonstrators also took to the streets, distributing leaflets about "Begin the murderer".

Mass demonstrations and

protests against Israeli occupation and aggression have characterised the 30th anniversary of the usurpation of Palestine, all throughout the west, where the public is becoming aware of the Middle East problem and is taking the opportunity to declare their support for the Palestinian people's rights to independence in their own state in Palestine, and for their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

The celebrations, held by western countries and governments, who, apart from the racists of southern Africa and the fascists of Latin America, are the only remaining backers of Israeli aggression and expansion, were held in an atmosphere of protests and demonstrations, and is a clear indicator that the people of Europe and the US are coming to realize that only when the Palestinian people have regained their legitimate rights, will the time for celebration and rejoicing have truly come.



Demonstration outside a Zionist meeting in London which was addressed by Moshe Dayan on May 7.

AFGHANISTAN:

SENDING RIPPLES OF CONCERN FAR BEYOND ITS BORDERS

Afghanistan, bordered by the USSR, China, Pakistan, and Iran, had been a crossroads between different cultures and ideologies, long before the 1907 'Anglo-Russian Agreement, which guaranteed the independence of the country under British influence. But because of its relatively backward economic structure it has remained dormant in the affairs of central Asia, and in keeping pace with the developing countries.

April 27 witnessed a marked change in Afghanistan which many believe will improve the country's internal and external stature. President Mohammed Daoud's regime has been replaced by a democratic republic, headed by the Secretary General of the Khalq, or Peoples Party, Nur Mohammed Taraki, who has also assumed the office of Prime Minister and head of the new Ruling Revolutionary Council.

Afghanistan ranks top amongst the least developed nations of the world, with a per capita income of only US \$85. Its largely tribal and nomadic society is estimated to number between 16 and 18 million people, most of whom are illiterate. The country has organized several ambitious development projects, based essentially on



Nur Mohammed Taraki, the new President of Afghanistan.

foreign aid, none of which have obtained their objectives due to corrupt administration and strong traditional structures.

The deposed President, Daoud, had capitalized on the country's realities to legitimize his takeover, in a coup, in 1973. His target, then was his cousin and brother-in-law, King Mohammed Zahir Shah. After the overthrow, he condemned the Zahir monarchy as corrupt and ineffective. Nevertheless "the Zahir family kept a tight hold on the top jobs and the spoils of power," (Time, May 8, 1978). Not long after the takeo-

ver, says the above article in Time, Daoud's regime "became a symbol of injustice, oppression, exploitation, and corruption," failing to put Afghanistan on the path to development. The eleventh hour move by Daoud to raise funds and rally support for his rule from Iran and Saudi Arabia, could not help quell the mass turbulence that characterized the last days of Daoud's rule.

It was within this atmosphere of corruption, turbulence, and slow progress, that the new government seized power. The change is expected to bring about sweeping changes in Afghanistan, but what has caught world attention the most is the repercussions of the change of government at the international level, especially in central Asia.

With the takeover of the government by left-wing forces in Afghanistan, the west, in particular the United States, has understandably declared its concern.

The US, ever since its emergence as an imperialist country, has been organizing regional pacts and treaties between foreign governments, in order to serve its own interests and those of its client regimes. The geo-political location

of Afghanistan has long interested American strategists. J.F. Dulles, the Secretary of State under the Eisenhower administration, consistently insisted that Afghanistan join the then Baghdad Pact — CENTO alliance, together with Iran, Iraq and Pakistan, prior to receiving aid from the US. America, after being turned down, for a while tried to pressure Afghanistan into joining CENTO by arming Pakistan and backing it in the Pashtunistan quarrel. Afghanistan, in such a situation, turned north to its neighbour, the Soviet Union, which supplied it with economic and military aid.

In 1954, the then US Vice-President, Nixon, visiting Afghanistan, "estimated prematurely, that Afghanistan was not that important in our strategic conception," (Sueddeutsche Zeitung, 15/5/78), and accordingly America, fearing that Afghanistan might move even closer to the Soviets if it tried to pressure it into signing treaties, remained aloof, giving it only some economic aid. This worked in well with the fact that the Afghani leaders, with their traditional beliefs, were equally as frightened of getting too close to the USSR.

After the recent revolution, Western analysts in Afghanistan have expressed fear that its pro-western pacifism will change. US News and World Report, May 15, 1978 writes that the revolution in Afghanistan brings communist influence "closer than ever to the vast oil resources of the Persian Gulf and to strategic Indian Ocean routes, both of vital importance to the West... communist rule in Kabul could destabilize all South Asia, a threat that the US could not easily ignore." The US government for its part, issued a statement through White House Spokesman, Hodding Carter, saying that the "USA deplores the bloodshed in the coup and is aware that the new President is the Secretary-General of the Afghan Communist Party, and we are in touch with other governments on this subject," (Reuters, 2/5/78).

Iran ranks top among the go-

vernments worried, and 'consulted' at the time. "Iran, concerned at the leftwing takeover has put its troops along the 530 mile long border with Afghanistan, on the alert", reported the Guardian, 5/5/78. Iran was to intervene if the coup faced any opposition and crush the revolution, for such purpose it has been armed to the teeth by the US. But "after it became clear that the reported tribal unrest in Afghanistan was unlikely to pose a serious challenge to Mr. Taraki's left-wing government, and after consulting with Pakistan and Turkey, its regional partners in CENTO, Iran recognized the new regime," (The Economist, May 13, 1978, p 79).

Iran's worries have been increased by the fact that the Soviet Ambassador in Istanbul, a week earlier, has spoken out against CENTO, and in particular Pakistan's membership. Observing no major Pakistani reaction against the Soviet official's statement, and this overshadowed by souring US-Turkish relations, Iran feels isolated in the area, within a confused and ever weakening CENTO. It is within this regional confusion that the change in Afghanistan has appeared. A senior Iranian official declared, "if CENTO cannot help in this situation, what can it do," (The Economist).

Besides the most obvious fears of Iran in a left-wing turn in Afghanistan, there are other major concerns. Iran fears unrest among the large immigrant Afghan labour force in Iran, numbering some one million: many of Iran's development projects have become dependent on them. This labour force is largely smuggled into Iran illegally by the Iranians themselves, and the government fears that with a left-wing government in Kabul, these immigrants could become a potentially dangerous force for the Shah.

There is also a fear that with the present unrest in the country getting out of hand, developments in Afghanistan might be used as an objective lesson by the Iranian dissidents. And last, but not least, there is the big question mark hanging over the fate of the



various nationalities distributed across the borders, set by colonialism, of the various countries, and who have been asking for the right to self-determination, namely the Baluchistan question, which also brings Pakistan into the picture.

Meanwhile, Pakistan fears that the Pashtun question will be reactivated. "Pakistani officials insist that the Pashtun breakaway campaign is supported and encouraged directly by Afghanistan, and indirectly by the Soviet Union," (US News and World Report, May 15, 1978, p 35). The other national concern of Pakistan is that already mentioned above, Baluchistan. These people live in the western part of Pakistan and extend over the border into Iran, and into southern Afghanistan, and there is presently a national liberation movement in existence there.

The change that has taken place in Afghanistan brings a big question mark to the fate of central Asia. CENTO countries fear its implications within member countries, while CENTO's patron, the USA is worried that a 'destabilized' central Asia will prove adverse to its interests, not only in south Asia, but also in the Arabian Gulf region and in the strategic Indian Ocean sea routes.

The revolution is expected to bring sweeping changes within Afghanistan itself, while at the same time sending ripples of concern far beyond the borders of this isolated, but strategic, nation.

AFGHANISTAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL SUPPORTS PLO.

In a statement to an Iranian newspaper, Mohammad Taraki, President of the Revolutionary Council of Afghanistan, reiterated his country's support for the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland, and for the Arab countries, and demanded the withdrawal

of the Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories.

Immediately following its take-over, the Revolutionary Council recognized the PLO, and invited it to open an office in Kabul.

ZIONISM IN PRACTICE

"MAGOR" Military school for expansion

APS:

Reports from Israel of a school for future military governors of the East Bank at Shoafat, near Jerusalem, have been released. The school is melodramatically code-named MAGOR, a Hebrew acronym for the three main Biblical tribes who supposedly lived in the East Bank two thousand years ago, and which also means to "inspire fear and terror". Several hundred officers attend the courses. The curriculae are divided into two main parts:

- 1) Basic intelligence, (demography, geo-economics, sociology, data on leaders and notables), about each region of East Jordan.

- 2) A history of the area in pre-Bible, Biblical, and post-Biblical times, with emphasis on various successful and unsuccessful efforts at colonization by various tribes of the Jews, the Canaanites, Greeks, Romans etc.

Begin's Historical Plans:

Westerners who take at face value the mood soothing statements of foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, or even Begin, would do well to review the historical programme of Begin's Herut Party, to which Begin and his fellow Herut members in the cabinet are still, to all intents and purposes, committed. "The Hebrew homeland, on both banks of the Jordan river, is a historical and geographical whole. The partition of this homeland is an illegal act and does not bind the Jewish people. The task of this generation is to reunite the divided parts of the homeland and establish on them Jewish sovereignty." This was the gist of the Herut Platform called "Principles

of the Jewish Liberation Movement", adopted in June 1948, a month after Israel's creation as a state. That Begin had his eye on Trans-Jordan even two years earlier, immediately after the creation of the latter, is shown by his statement in the underground newspaper "Herut", of April 1946: "Comprising over 100,000 square kilometres, and characterized by a sparse population, the land is surprisingly fertile and can easily provide for a Jewish population of millions."

On January 2, 1956, when the Suez War of the following autumn was little more than gleams in the eyes of David Ben-Gurion, Anthony Eden and Guy Mollet, Begin told the Knesset: "The people of Israel have seen occupied Trans-Jordan as a limb torn from the pulsating body of the nation and you had the daring to accept, defacto, a different state (Jordan), in our historical homeland. This is blasphemy."

OFFENSIVE AGAINST NAQAB BEDOUINS INTENSIFIES

Following the demonstrations of Bedouin Palestinian Arabs in occupied Palestine, over the confiscation of their lands and the authorities' policy of forced evacuations, the Israeli authorities are continuing their offensive against the Naqab people.

The agents of this oppression are the notorious 'Green Guards', also known as the 'Sharon Gangs', because they are under the personal control of the Israeli Minister of Agriculture, and Director of the Ministerial Settlement Committee, Ariel Sharon, (See 'Palestine', Vol 4, No 3). In early May, they attacked Arab shepherds in the suburbs of Aqaba, detained a number of them on charges of trespassing, and dispersed their cattle. At the same time, the authorities seized large plots of land in the Naqab and prevented the owners from returning.

On May 17, squads of 'Green Guards', backed by police forces, looted 45 houses belonging to Naqab inhabitants, and then demolished them, thus leaving the owners without shelter. No justification was given for the attacks, but Sharon's gangs were in possession of an order issued by Finance

Minister Erlich, to confiscate 26,000 dunums, (app. 6,500 acres), of Naqab land.

A communique, issued by representatives of 45 Bedouin tribes of the Naqab, at a Jerusalem press conference, on May 21, condemned the Israeli policy of confiscating their land, demolishing their houses, stealing their belongings, and killing their sheep and cattle. The Bedouin leaders confirmed that the Israeli authorities have, so far, confiscated 3,000 dunums, (app. 750 acres), of their land, south-east of Bir Sabe', demolished their houses, and burned the camps they had set up.

The Palestinians of the Naqab have made it plain that they will hold on to their land, in spite of the numerous pressures exerted on them.

ISRAELI SUPPRESSION OF SOUTHERN LEBANESE CONTINUES IN SPITE OF U.N. PRESENCE

The Israeli occupation forces in South Lebanon continue to reinforce their positions and fortifications, and to open new roads in the area running from the al-

Hamra bridge in the West to the South of Tibnin and until the villages of Rashaya al-Fukhar and Kfar Hammam in the Arqoub region.

These forces moreover continue to suppress the local population, kidnapping and threatening many of them.

Reports from South Lebanon said that enemy forces positioned in the hills overlooking Hadatha village, May 8, stormed the village of Jebin in the Bint Jbeil district and kidnapped the Mukhtar, Mahmoud Agel, taking him away towards occupied Palestine.

The Zionist forces are also searching homes and interrogating villagers in Tibnin, despite the presence there of Senegalese UN forces.

Reports from the Eastern sector of South Lebanon indicated that an Israeli patrol, on May 8, entered the village of Kfar Shouba and arrested a number of citizens, then headed towards Kfar Hammam, which lies 7 kms away from the Zionist positions in the Kfar Shouba hills, and arrested more people.

ISRAELI GENERAL EYTAN: 'RETAIN CONTROL OF WEST BANK, GOLAN, AND SINAI'

In a television interview on May 12, Israeli Chief of Staff, General Eytan, revealed the real thinking of the Zionist leadership who mouth words of peace while preparing for new aggressions.

Eytan stated that 'Israel' should retain control of the West Bank, and Golan Heights, and possibly, Sinai too. The West Bank was of "the greatest importance" for Israel's security, he said, (The Times, 13/5/'78). He continued by saying that he attached great significance, both ideologically and militarily, to Jewish settlements in 'border areas', including those of the West Bank. "What we are doing there is not colonization but settlement," he said, (Associated Press, Reuters, 13/5/'78).

The statements caused a storm among

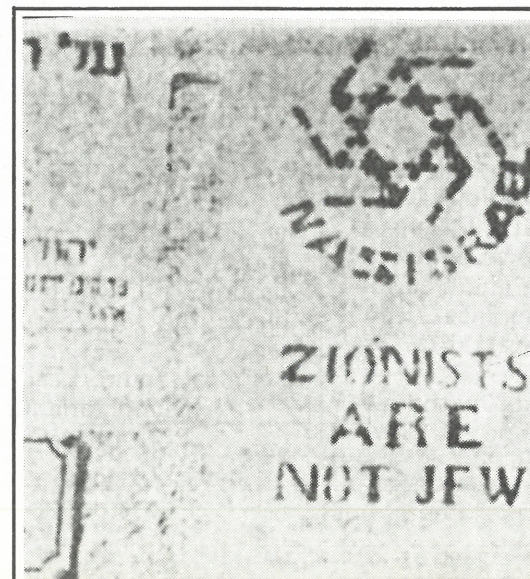
opposition members and dissidents within Begin's own shaky coalition government, especially the Democratic Movement for Change, the leader of which is the Deputy Prime Minister, Yigal Yadin. The Likud Block came out in support of Eytan's statement, thus reiterating their own position of intransigence.

The Israeli cabinet met on May 14, and rejected a move by the 'Democratic Movement for Change' to censure Eytan for interference in politics. The whole Likud block voted against the censure.

The Jerusalem Post, May 12, in a leading article, said Eytan had "served notice on all Israeli governments-to-be as to the terms on which the armed forces would undertake the defence of the country." The Chief of Staff had presented "a challenge to civilian authority," the Post said.

ZIONISTS ARE NOT JEWS

Orthodox religious Jews living in the Hashearjm Quarter in occupied Jerusalem, recently expressed their contempt for, and hatred of, the Israeli government by showing the Star of David drawn in the fashion of a swastika, under which was inscribed 'Israel the Nazi state'. Slogans saying that 'Zionists are not Jews' were also written over the walls in the quarter. These manifestations are in line with the policies of the Jewish sect called Natourei Karta, which does not recognize the state of Israel, nor does it use its currency because of the Zionist nature of the state.



Apology to our readers.

In the last issue of 'Palestine', Volume 4, Number 8, May 1-15, the following quotations were wrongly attributed. We sincerely apologize for this error on our part, and hope that you have not been seriously inconvenienced by it. The corrected quotations, are reprinted below.

"Once we settle in a certain place, it means that this place has become part of the state of Israel."

Yitzak Rabin, 10/2/'77

"The Gaza Strip will remain a part of the state of Israel."

Menahem Begin, 16/2/'77

"Palestine is ours... There exists a refugee problem... but it is possible to find the means of solving it."

Ezer Weizman, 18/4/'77

"Israel will never give up any territory on the West Bank, for this land is an integral part of the land of Israel. The Arab leaders should know this and have to know this."

Menahem Begin, 20/5/'77

"Israel will keep on setting up settlements in the West Bank... I also support the idea of integrating the West Bank economy into Israel's, so that more understanding can be gained."

Ezer Weizman, 23/5/'77

"Begin is unconditionally ready for negotiations with the Arab states at the Geneva Conference... However there is no place for the Palestinians at the Conference."

Shamuel Katz, 4/6/'77

"Israel will not withdraw to the lines of June 4, 1967."

It will never do that, nor will it accept the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judea and Samaria."

Menahem Begin, 24/6/'77

"Jerusalem will remain the undivided capital of Israel... we will point out this position in the Geneva negotiations."

Menahem Begin, 7/7/'77

"Israel effectively participates in consolidating US national security, and we get what we get from Washington in accordance with the mutual interests of both states."

Menahem Begin, 13/7/'77

"Nowadays, the Fedayin are capable of attacking us with big contingents and better armament... therefore we are careful not to let the Palestinians maintain a base from which, with the support of the Arab world, they could launch attacks."

Mordechai Gur, 3/9/'77

"I reject the imposition of a political settlement in the Middle East. Israel alone has to determine its objectives and destiny. I also reject the establishment of a Palestinian state."

Kissinger, 3/11/'77

"Jordan is originally part of the land of Israel... the majority of Jordan's actual inhabitants are Palestinians, so why doesn't the Palestinian question find its solution within the Jordanian context."

Golda Meir, 9/11/'77

"The most important thing about Sadat's visit is the fashion in which it took place, the rest is not important."

Yigal Yadin, Leader of the Democratic Movement For Change 20/11/'77



Extra security measures for the '30th anniversary': watching the coast, while further inland more violent measures are enacted.

INTENSIFIED OPPRESSION FOR MAY 15

May 15, 1978 saw the passing of thirty years since the wiping of Palestine from the map of the world. May 15, the Day of Palestinian Struggle is also the day of the proclamation of the 'state of Israel'. Resulting from that day,

thirty years ago has been three decades of Palestinian suffering and exile, and three decades of Zionist expansionism. Thus, on and around the day of May 15, the Palestinian people, — in their refugee camps and villages inside occupied Palestine — in their countries of exile — and the armed Palestinian resistance, escalate the already intense mass and armed struggle against the occupation, as a sign of their determination to continue the struggle for their human and national rights.

The massively armed, supposedly all-powerful military machine of the Israelis, meanwhile, continually harasses, terrorizes, intimidates, and tries to humiliate the Palestinian people under occupation. At this time of the year, as on other occasions Zionism holds special, these measures are greatly intensified, with the aim of suppressing the spirit and determination of the people to resist.

For thirty years, the Palestinian people have successively and continuously resisted the occupation of their homeland. The armed resistance too, begun in 1965, continues to operate successfully against the might of the Israeli military, who have proven helpless in stopping the Palestinian mass and armed resistance.

It is indicative of the militaristic nature of the Zionist state that on every 'public' occasion, the Zionist forces of oppression mobilization increases. This year the Zionist instrumentalities reached new heights in their measures of oppression and aggressive preparation. Reuters, on May 10, reported that anti-aircraft missiles had been moved into position near major Israeli population centres. Police leave was cancelled, civil guardsmen were placed on standby, and the army, navy, and air force were put in a state of readiness. United Press International reported, also on May 10, that more than 30,000 troops, frontier guards, and other forces were mobilized to provide security for the anniversary 'celebrations'. Armed guards were placed outside



INTENSIFIED OPPRESSION FOR MAY 15

hotels, while jeeps continuously patrolled the beaches. Elsewhere throughout the land there were frequent roadblocks and searches, (The Times, May 10).

These are the outward forms that the Zionist preparations take. It is they that receive the publicity of the international media, which marvels at the Israeli 'military might'. The Palestinian people, under occupation have had long experience of this 'military might' of the Israelis. They witness it every day, as mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters are arrested, beaten, jailed, expelled, and killed by the Israelis. They witness it as their lands are confiscated and their homes seized or destroyed.

While the West gazes with awe at the mobilization of thirty thousand troops, and the positioning of

anti-aircraft missiles, the reasons for the need for such stringent security are never mentioned. Nor are the other forms of preparation that go on, on the village and town level.

In Nablus, for example, the town was placed under a week long curfew and siege. Israeli police stormed houses, beat up citizens, and arrested dozens of people, as part of a deliberate campaign to intimidate Nablus' citizens.

In Nazareth, Zionist thugs stormed the municipal hall, beating up and severely injuring the Deputy Mayor and other council members and employees. Other acts of premeditated violence were carried out against the townspeople. The paid Zionist agents were arrested and then released by the Zionist

authorities without being charged. This is not the first time that such acts have taken place without charges being laid by the authorities. The municipality, showing that Zionist thuggery would not intimidate the people, called for a massive rally and strike.

Such preparations for May 15 occurred all over occupied Palestine as part of the Israeli authorities attempts to silence the Palestinian masses' resistance.

Yet, where and when do we hear about these 'preparations'? We don't! Because unlike the troop mobilizations and the missile positionings, these forms of 'preparation' — the enactment of violence against the Palestinian people — go on for 365 days a year, and what makes news for the western media is the spectacular, and what happens only once, twice, or three times a year.

What is certain is that in spite of the repression, the Palestinian people will continue the resistance. The Palestinian people resisted under the British mandate for over 25 years, and they have resisted the Zionist occupation for 30 more. No other state in the world is so scared and frightened of the masses that it feels the necessity of adopting the mobilization of 30,000 troops etc, for its 'independence' celebrations.

So long as the Palestinian people are denied their legitimate rights, of return, of their human rights, and the right to establish their own independent state, the Zionists will be forced to mobilize their army and other forces against the determined and spirited resistance of the Palestinian people under occupation.



Full military mobilization to suppress the populace.

MASS UPRISING AGAINST SHAH OF IRAN

The last few months in Iran, have been characterized by an increasing mass turbulence. People of all creeds and political affinities have joined in mass riots that have been taking place in many cities and towns, chanting slogans directed against the Shah and all the evils he stands for. At the root of the violence in Iran lies social unrest, a by-product of the Shah's dream of turning Iran into a major "political and military power in the region, in the era of great civilization."

The weak economic infrastructure, the heavy purchases of Western equipment, the high dependence on the USA, and the corruption of the royal family and

the privileged stratum of the population, account for the social unrest, characteristic of today's Iran.

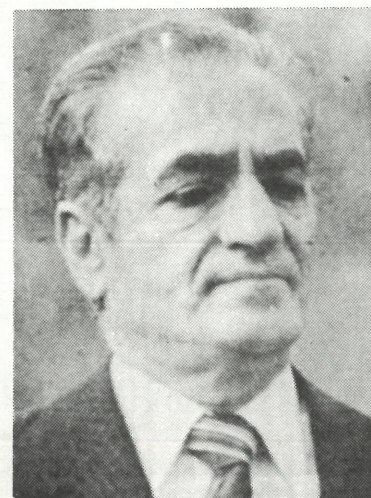
The Shah's 'white revolution', financed by the country's immense oil and gas revenues has remained a 'whitewash' in terms of meeting the basic needs of the people. "Iran has attained an annual per capita income of \$2,200, but this average, impressive by the standards of the developing world, is a statistical figment masking a wide gap between the wealthy elite and the poor in the villages and urban slums," (International Herald Tribune, April 4, 1978).

The Shah's main energies are

directed towards maintaining a good image of himself abroad, and building up his army for internal and external use. To this end "Iran bought the most US arms last year, \$5.8 billion worth, more than half of the total US sales, a US Defence Spokesman reported," (International Herald Tribune, January 20, 1978). This huge military burden, coupled with the fact that due to international inflation, oil revenues have greatly diminished, have forced Iran to extend a begging hand to western monopolies. Moreover, government corruption is at its peak and the land reforms only partially effective.

It is within this background





The Shah: "What a handful of poor ignorant people did in Tabriz doesn't mean anything."

MASS UPRISING AGAINST SHAH OF IRAN

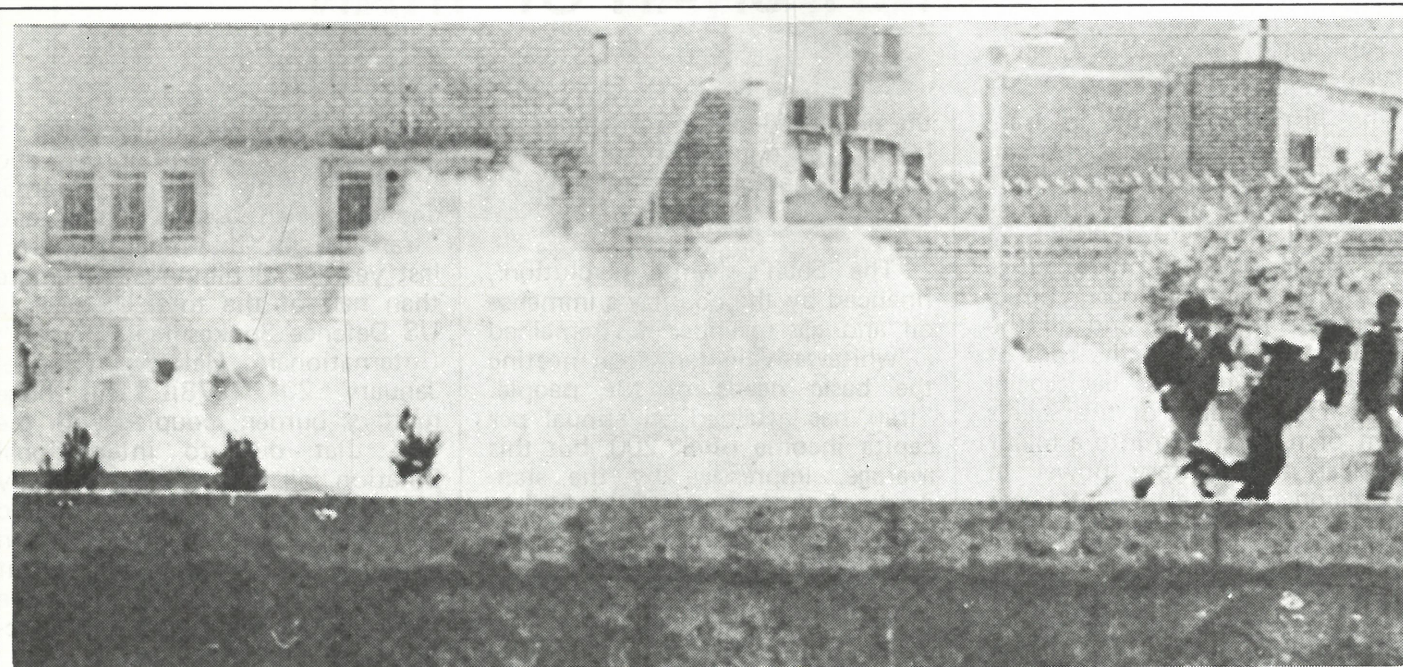
that the recent manifestations of unrest broke out in Iran. They were triggered off last January, in Qom, 100km south of Teheran, as a 'religious protest' which gradually moved to Tabriz, where the protests manifested themselves in terms of political and economic demands. Tabriz, the provincial capital of eastern Azerbaijan, is also where the Turkish speaking people of Iran are centred. They feel that "the Shah has suppressed their identity, their language is systematically crushed by Teheran, and the use of their language in schools or in public is discouraged," (The Times, 11/5/78). The uprising in Tabriz was the clear expression of political and economic demands from oppressed national groupings and the people in general. According to the article last cited, "the riots in Tabriz were careful to damage only property associated with the central government; they sacked the offices of the Rastakiz, Iran's only legal political party, along with symbols of Western imperialism."

The uprising reached its peak, when in early March it reached the capital, Teheran, where thousands daily poured into the streets, burning government offices and chanting slogans such as, 'Down with the Shah'.

The Shah responded by calling in troops and tank units to quell the popular uprising. He was forced to postpone his state visits to Romania and Bulgaria. The death toll of protesters gunned down by the Shah's armed forces was well over 200, and many thousands were arrested and jailed.

The Shah, who, like any other dictator, believes in self-deception, when asked what the reasons for the unrest were, and if he was concerned, replied "No, not at all. What a handful of poor ignorant people did in Tabriz doesn't mean anything," (Sunday Times, April 16, 1978). The people of Iran are poor, all right! The Shah knows best in this regard, and many of them are illiterate due to the lack of educational facilities, but the continuous upheaval in Iran proves, beyond a doubt, that the people of Iran are out to combat their poverty and the social injustices inflicted upon them, in what is one of the wealthiest countries in the world.

The unrest in Iran has thrown the West and its regional organization, CENTO, into total confusion, and this is being heightened by developments in Afghanistan which might be seen as a model for the production of change in Iran itself.



Iranian security forces attack demonstrators in Qom with tear-gas grenades.

SOLIDARITY NEWS

SOLIDARITY ACTIVITIES IN WEST GERMANY

Bonn. — The Palestinian Information Office, Palestine solidarity committees, and the General Union of Palestinian Students in the Federal Republic of Germany staged, during the second half of May, meetings and lectures in several West German cities in solidarity with the just struggle of the Palestinian people led by the P.L.O. Meetings took place in Frankfurt, Hamburg, Mannheim, Koeln and Hannover, and also in West Berlin.

Furthermore, fund raising campaigns were held by German, Arab and Palestinian friends to support the Palestinian just struggle.

It is also worth mentioning that the West German authorities denied entry visas to P.L.O. officials, thus preventing them from attending those meetings. This hostile West German attitude towards the P.L.O. was the subject of criticism by the P.L.O. supporters in West Germany who distributed leaflets against the West German police measures.

VIETNAM AFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR P.L.O.

At a rally in Hanoi recently, a member of the Vietnamese Solidarity Committee reiterated the Vietnamese people's firm support for the just struggle the Palestinian people have been waging against Israel for thirty years. The PLO representative in Vietnam, Ali Feyyad, in turn expressed the PLO's appreciation of the Vietnamese people's and government's support for the Palestinian cause.

ILO ACCUSES ISRAEL OF RESTRAINING UNION FREEDOMS OF ARAB WORKERS

A delegation of the Internatio-

nal Labour Organization (ILO) which recently visited the occupied Arab territories on a fact-finding tour asked the Israeli authorities to take the appropriate measures which would ensure equality of treatment for all workers. The report of the PLO delegation pointed out that the Israeli authorities restrain the freedom of Arab workers syndicates and that 17 union leaders were arrested, 14 of whom were deported while the three others are still in custody.

The report quoted Arab workers as saying that they were not treated on an equal footing with Israeli workers and that they were not entitled to social security from which non-Arab workers benefit. It added that as a result of this policy, a large number of workers are forced to seek jobs in Arab countries.

The report, which is to be submitted to the annual ILO conference on June 7th, coincides with the recent W.H.O. resolution condemning Israel's policy in the occupied Arab territories.

UNESCO TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMITTEE OF 23

The UNESCO Executive Board, on May 12, voted for a resolution requesting the Board's Director General to participate in the activities of the Committee of 23 for the Exercise by the Palestinian People of their Inalienable Rights.

The resolution was submitted by delegates of Arab, African Asian and Socialist countries, and it was adopted with a 25-5 vote with nine abstentions. The U.S.A., the United Kingdom, West Germany, Belgium, and Australia opposed the resolution.

W.H.O. DENOUNCES ISRAEL

The General Assembly of the

World Health Organization in its meeting in Geneva, on May 22, issued a communique in which it denounced Israel's inhuman treatment of Palestinian prisoners, and decided to take certain measures against the Zionist entity, giving the Assembly the authority to suspend Israel's right to vote.

ARAB DOCTORS SUPPORT PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION

The Union of Arab Doctors held an urgent meeting in Rabat between the 16th and 17th of May to discuss ways to support the Palestinian Revolution. The Union decided to increase its medical aid to the Revolution, and prepared a plan of action to be carried out in emergency situations.

NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES: NO PEACE WITHOUT REGAINING PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

The Co-ordination Bureau of the non-aligned countries, following its meeting in Havana recently, issued a communique stressing its belief that peace in the area can only be achieved after a total Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and after the national rights of the Palestinians have been implemented, including the creation of an independent Palestinian state. The communique called upon all the non-aligned countries to support the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, to regain their inalienable legitimate rights.

The communique furthermore denounced the treasonous policy of Sadat, which it declared will complicate peace negotiations and facilitate American intervention, which aims to liquidate the Palestinian Revolution and freeze the

SOLIDARITY NEWS

situation in the area. The occupation of South Lebanon, the communique added, might trigger off another war in the area, thus endangering world peace and security.

CYPRIOT CP AND SP CALL PARLIAMENT'S ATTENTION TO ZIONIST ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES IN CYPRUS

Speaking before Cypriot Parliament on May 12, the Secretary-General of Ekel, and the Secretary-General of the Cypriot Socialist Party, affirmed that the Cypriot people support the Palestinian people in their just struggle against imperialism and Zionism. Accusing Israeli agents of carrying out espionage activities in Cyprus, the Secretary-General of the Socialist Party called on the Government to sever relations with Israel. The Secretary-General of the Cypriot people's party indicated that he had handed the Government a list of all Zionist agents responsible for subversive activities against Cyprus, and called upon the authorities to arrest them.

AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION DENOUNCES ISRAEL IN CABLE TO WALDHEIM

In a cable addressed, on May 16, to UN Secretary-General Dr. Kurt Waldheim on the 30th anniversary of the usurpation of Palestine, Abdel Rahman al-Sharqawi, Secretary-General of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization, vehemently denounced Israeli practices in the occupied territories which "contradict the UN Charter and principles", and all kinds of support to Israel which "help safeguard the fruits of its aggressions." He called for the immediate implementation of all UN resolutions, above all Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and from South Lebanon and granting the Palestinian people their right to self-determination and to statehood.

Meanwhile, a press communique released by the Organization held the USA responsible for Israel's crimes committed since its occupation of Palestine, — "for without the assistance of the USA, Israel

FREEDOM TO THE CYPRIOT JOURNALIST PANAYIOTIS PASCHALIS

The Cypriot capital, Nicosia, on May 2, witnessed a huge mass demonstration to protest against the Zionist enemy's continued detention of progressive Cypriot journalist, Panayiotis Paschalis.

Demonstrators shouted slogans affirming their support for the Palestinian people in their just struggle against Zionism and for the restoration of their usurped rights. They then marched to the Zionist entity's Embassy in Nicosia, saluting the cooperation between the Palestinian and Cypriot people.

Paschalis was arrested together with the progressive Jewish journalist Hans Lebrecht, in the Zionist entity and charged with 'violating the state's security'.

would have never been able to perpetrate such crimes".

PROGRESSIVE AFRICAN CONFERENCE AFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR PLO

The fifth conference of progressive African parties and states recently held in Tananarive, Madagascar, affirmed its complete support for the Palestinian people's struggle led by the PLO to establish their independent state, and its support for the Confrontation and Steadfastness Front, in confronting Zionist expansionist plans. The conference also condemned US-Zionist plots against Palestinian rights, stressing that no peace could be achieved in the Middle East without the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights and without an Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories.

The conference also stressed that the UNIFIL's mission in South Lebanon is to supervise the Israeli withdrawal and not to consolidate the occupation.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION APPROVES PALESTINIAN WORKING PAPER

The Permanent Committee of the Industrial Development Organization approved, in its 10th session held in Vienna on May 2-12, the Palestinian working paper with a 24-1 vote, that of the U.S.A. being against.

The 10 Western European states abstained.

The Palestinian working paper requests the dispatch of a special committee to the occupied territories to report on the economic situation and allocate, in light of the study, a budget for establishing development projects in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

At the request of the PLO and Pakistani delegates, Israel's representative was prevented from continuing his speech which attacked the Palestinian people and the PLO.

SONG FOR A PALESTINIAN PASSOVER

By
Dave Wallis. 1978.

I
*If they had taken our land and not gloated in busloads
It would have sufficed.
If they had taken our land and not said it was for God's will
It would have sufficed.
If they had divided our homes among them and not said that we did not exist*

*It would have sufficed.
If they had dropped napalm and not repeated shalom
It would have sufficed.
But they did all these things.
How many the cruelties they have bestowed upon us.*

II
*Who knows One?
I know One: one lost homeland.
Who knows Two?
I know Two: two hands to hold a rifle.
Who knows Three?
I know Three: three tanks against one stone.
Who knows Four?
I know Four: four cities lost to us.*

*Four lost cities.
Three tanks coming.
Two hands only.
One lost homeland.*

III
*Then came the planes
That came from America
That dropped napalm
That burned our children
That once had lived
In our land Palestine.*

*Then came the young men
That once were boys
Then came the young women
That once were girls
Then came the young people
That once were children
That now are fighters
That fight for their land of Palestine.*





**SOLIDARITY WITH
THE PALESTINIAN
PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE**

Palestine

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

Vol. 4 No. 10
15 June 1978



**HONECKER TO ARAFAT:
FULL SOLIDARITY WITH PLO**