



**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**

TO OUR FRIENDS

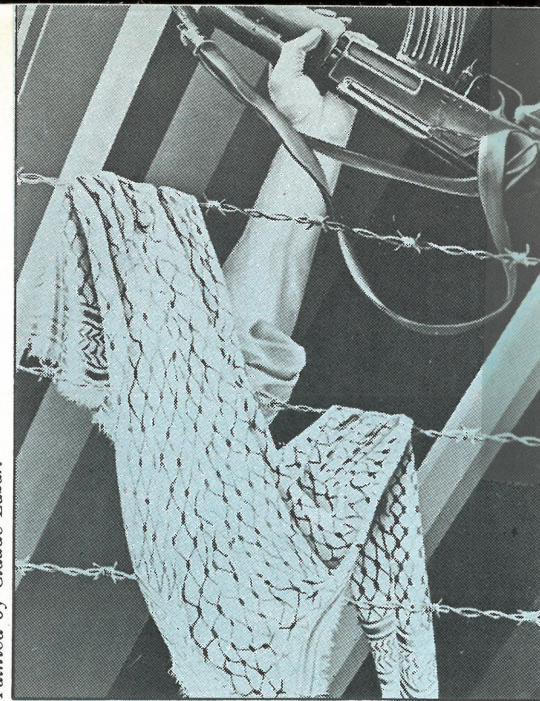
The Zionist state has been boastfully celebrating its 30th anniversary while continuing to ignore the basic rights of the Palestinian people, who continue to suffer both in their refugee camps, and under occupation.

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.

Painted by Claude Lazar.



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EDITORIAL

ESCALATION OF ARMED RESISTANCE

The world situation has changed immensely since the June war of 1967. World public opinion has shifted a great deal to the side of the Palestinian and Arab cause. The Palestine question, due to the continuous armed struggle of the Palestinian people, has become the centre of all political developments in the Middle East.

The Israelis, on the other hand, are denying all these facts. They are pursuing their own old fashioned policy of the 'promised land', and are proceeding with the establishment of new settlements in the occupied territories, in defiance of world public opinion and Arab sentiments. They are also denying the Palestinian people their rights to self-determination and to determine their own future. The Israelis are hiding themselves behind the irrational arguments of 'defensible borders' and 'self rule' projects for the Palestinian people under Israeli dominion. This Israeli intransigence and arrogance will definitely lead to a new military confrontation in the Middle East, which the Israelis are preparing for. Their US ally is supplying them with the necessary weapons and support to carry on their policy of occupation and warmongering.

The enemies of the Palestinian people believe that after every new crisis, or confrontation, the Palestinians should give up their arms and surrender to manoeuvres or conspiracies, and remain disappointed. They hope to settle their problems at the expense of the

Palestinian people and their vanguard, the PLO. Those permanent enemies of the Palestinian people forget that a people who have a just cause and are determined to defend themselves are invincible. The Zionists and their US imperialist allies can continue to patch together conspiracies and manoeuvres to contain or liquidate the independent Palestinian will, but all of them are doomed to fail. The PLO has passed through the attempts at liquidation, and with every plot or manoeuvre, the PLO grows stronger, on the internal as well as the international level.

Stepping into a new stage of its struggle, the PLO is determined to intensify its armed resistance against the Zionist occupation of Palestine. The occupied territories are now becoming the main battlefield on which to fight against the occupation. Palestinian fighters are spread all throughout the occupied territories, and execute their operations in Jerusalem, the Naqab, or in the Upper Galilee against the settlement of Mehola, near Bisan. In spite of the severe security measures, Palestinian fedayin are determined to carry on armed resistance against the Israeli occupation, because this is the only language the Israelis understand. Israeli violence can only be met with Palestinian-Arab counter violence. The language of violence was imposed on the area by Israeli settler colonialists; the Palestinians are only the victims. The Palestinian victims are fighting back against their Zionist victimizers, the Israeli expansionists.

PALESTINE NOTES

ARAFAT HEADS PLO DELEGATION TO GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC



Chairman Arafat greeted by G.D.R. President, Erich Honecker.

From Monday June 5, to Wednesday June 7, Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and General Commander of the forces of the Palestinian Revolution, headed a PLO delegation to the German Democratic Republic. The Palestinian delegation consisted of Arafat, Abu Lutf, Head of the PLO Political Department, Abdel Muh-sin Abu Maizer, Official Spokesman of the PLO Executive Committee, and Talal Naji, member of the PLO Executive Committee.

The delegation's visit coincided with a nation-wide week of 'Solidarity with the Peoples of the Middle East who are Struggling Against Imperialism and Colonialism'.

Upon arrival at Berlin Airport the delegation was greeted by Comrade Gerhard Grueneberg, member of the Politburo of the German Unified Socialist Party.

On the afternoon of June 5, the PLO delegation, joined by Nabil Quleilet, the PLO representa-

tive in Berlin, inaugurated a Palestinian Folk Art Exhibition at the Islamic Museum of the GDR State Museum. Representating the GDR side were comrade Grueneberg, and Hermann Axen, member of the Politburo of the German Unified Socialist Party.

Arafat and the respective sides toured the Exhibition, and Arafat thanked the GDR government for hosting the Exhibition and praised the GDR for its vanguard role in facing imperialism. During the inauguration Arafat presented presents, produced by SAMED, to the two GDR representatives.

At noon, on June 7, Yasser Arafat met with Erich Honecker, President of the German Democratic Republic and General Secretary of the German Unified Socialist Party.

Their talks concentrated on the present issues on the international level, and on the new developments in the Middle East. President Honecker expressed the GDR's concern over the disturbed situation in the Middle East, and firmly condemned the Israeli aggression on Lebanon. He also affirmed that there can be no solution to the Middle East conflict without the participation of all concerned parties, and that the PLO must fully and equally participate. This means that all separate talks must end, and a settlement should take place within in the framework of the Geneva Conference. Honecker affirmed that the GDR completely supports, and will make all efforts for the establishment of a just and permanent peace in the Middle East. He also affirmed that the GDR stands firmly behind the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and considers itself in full solidarity with the PLO.



Chairman Arafat with Hermann Axen and Gerhard Grueneberg, members of the G.D.R. Politburo.

Yasser Arafat explained to Honecker, the present Middle East situation, and reiterated the PLO's pledge to continue the struggle against Israeli aggression.

Upon his return to Beirut on the evening of June 7, Yasser Arafat said that "the visit was very successful... and underlines the socialist countries unwavering support for the Palestinian people and Revolution."

ARAFAT SPEAKS AT GRADUATION CEREMONY

At a graduation ceremony for Fateh cadres on June 8, Yasser Arafat Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and General Commander of the forces of the Palestinian Revolution declared:—"We are always ready to implement national unity, and we are always in favour of democratic dialogue.

"Fateh must not tire from engaging in dialogue because it is our duty, and as we engage in democratic dialogue in the Palestinian theatre, we do the same on the Arab theatre, thus devoting our efforts to achieve a unity of all forces opposing imperialism, Zionism, and all the capitulationists" Arafat-added:—

"A few days ago, we met with the Foreign Minister of Democratic Yemen and told him that we should work together to attract Iraq into the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front because we believe in putting what we say into practice.

"During that meeting we also suggested the convening of a summit or a Foreign Ministers' meeting of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front so as to confront the critical and difficult incidents and conspiracies aimed against the Palestinian Revolution, the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and the whole Arab nation. Yemen and Syria consented, and we are now waiting for the reply of our brothers in Algeria and Libya." Arafat concluded that the conspiracy against the Palestinian Revolution is vast, and is being concocted by Israel, and by U.S. imperialism which covets Arab oil."

ARAFAT INTERVIEW WITH TANJUG

In an interview in Damascus with Tanjug's Special Correspondent, Mirko Aksentijevic, Yasser Arafat said that there can be neither peace, nor a solution to

the Middle East problem, nor security in the Middle East, at the expense of the Palestinian people.

He then warned that the USA, in denying the Palestinian realities represented by the PLO itself, and the entire Palestinian people, virtually denies the essence of the Middle East problem. He then stressed "we should particularly take into consideration the fact that the Palestinian people are supported by all peace-loving and freedom-loving peoples, the peoples of Socialist, non-aligned and Islamic countries, and numerous friends among the democratic forces in the West".

On the situation in Lebanon, Arafat assessed it as "very complex and critical" and added that the Palestinian movement will do everything in cooperation with the Lebanese government and the United Nations, to help stabilization and facilitate the tasks of UN forces in monitoring Israel's withdrawal from the occupied regions of the Lebanese South. He then stressed that in the stabilization in Lebanon, the PLO will cooperate with Lebanese President Elias Sarkis, Prime Minister Hoss and the Arab Leagues forces.

On PLO relations with Syria, Arafat estimated that the Palestinian Liberation movement's connections will Syria "are essential and of strategic dimensions." He then recalled that the PLO and Syria are the two mainstays of the front of resistance to Zionist expansionism.

On the holding of an Arab summit, Arafat held that an inter-Arab summit cannot be held as long as there are Arab-Israeli meetings. "The Arab nation" he underlined, "will come to know that its only road is in the persistent struggle against the aggressive and expansionist policy of the enemy. This enemy is resolved to destroy the Palestinian people and is supported by those who call themselves defenders of human rights". In speaking about the Amman plan for the creation of a Federal Jordanian-Palestinian Kingdom, Arafat called attention

to the decisions of Arab Summits, UN resolutions and non-aligned meetings, "These documents", he said "define the rights of the Palestinian people — the right to return to their country, to self-determination, and the creation of an autonomous, independent state in its own territory". He then recalled that King Hussein, while on a recent visit to Yugoslavia, confirmed the right of the Palestinians to an independent country. He confirmed that the presence of the Palestinians in Lebanon and their co-existence with the Lebanese are in accordance with the Cairo Agreement between the Lebanese and the Palestinians, as confirmed at two Arab summits and in several protocols.

ABU LUTF AND FATEH DELEGATION MEET SPANISH LABOUR PARTY LEADERS

From May 23-28, a delegation representing the Spanish Labour Party visited the Palestinian National Liberation Movement, 'Fateh', and held talks with 'Fateh' leaders on various aspects of the Arab and European situations. The Spanish delegation was headed by Comrade Hilario Garcia Castro, the party's Secretary General.

On May 26, a 'Fateh' delegation, headed by Abu Lutf, the Head of the PLO Political Department, and Secretary of the 'Fateh' Central Committee, conferred with the Spanish delegation. The points of view of both delegations were identical on the subjects discussed, which included the development of the situation in Spain, and Europe in general, as well as developments on the Palestinian and Arab scenes.

Comrade Hilario Castro said

that his party placed high, the Palestinian struggle against Zionism and imperialism, and affirmed that the Spanish Labour Party will extend all possible support to the Palestinian people until they have achieved their final victory, and established a democratic state in Palestine.

The Spanish delegation also denounced all Zionist and reactionary attacks on the Palestinian Revolution, and affirmed their firm stand against all attempts by the reactionary forces in Spain to bring that country to recognize the Zionist entity.

During their visit the Spanish delegation paid visits to military bases and to some of the institutions of the Palestinian Revolution.

Under the relatively democratic climate now prevailing in Spain, Spanish progressive parties have intensified their local and external democratic struggle. Considering work on the solidarity of the Spanish people with the Palestinian people, as being one of their most important democratic activities on the international level, these parties have launched mass information and support campaigns in Spain, to resist the rightist forces who are calling for the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Zionist entity.

The long and intense struggle of these democratic parties has led to the Spanish Ministry of the Interior agreeing to the establishment of the 'Palestinian People's Friends Society', which has the following aims:—

1. The study and understanding of the culture and history of Palestine.

2. Publishing and introducing

the Palestinian people's cause through pamphlets, lectures, films, study circles, and through the mass media.

3. Cooperation and material assistance.

4. Establishing close and strong relations between the Spanish and Palestinian peoples.

It is worth mentioning that the Spanish Labour Party, together with other democratic Spanish parties contributed to the formation of this society.

DAOUD KALUTI SENDS MESSAGE OF THANKS TO FINNISH PRESIDENT

Daoud Kaluti, the PLO representative to the Scandinavian Countries, on June 4, sent a message of thanks to the Finnish President on the latter's positive attitude towards the Palestinian problem during the Israeli Foreign Minister's recent visit to Finland.

In his message, Kaluti affirmed that the Palestinian people have been fighting against the Zionist enemy for 14 years and that they will continue their struggle to regain their legitimate national rights in Palestine. He added that the Zionist enemy in executing his aggressive and expansionist policy, continues to establish settlements in the occupied Arab lands, thus violating all U.N. resolutions and its Charter. Kaluti concluded his message by stressing the inevitable victory of the peoples who are fighting for their right of self-determination in their homelands.

GUPW POLITICAL COMMUNIQUE

The Executive Committee of the General Union of Palestinian Workers held its regular meeting in Damascus on May 28th and 29th. Yasser Arafat, who attended part of this meeting, reviewed the current situation and the conspiracies against the Palestinian Revolution, especially after the South Lebanese war. After this review, the Executive Committee studied the situation in the Arab region and the role of the Palestinian working class, in light of which the committee:—

1. Stressed the vanguard role of the working class, and the legitimacy of the PLO in representing the Palestinian people, so that the Palestinian rifle may continue to fight the Zionist enemy until victory.

2. Saluted the steadfastness of the LNM and the Palestinian Revolution in confronting the Zionist invasion.

3. Stressed the right of the Palestinian Revolution to remain in South Lebanon in order to shoulder its militant duties, and warns against the role that some of the UNIFIL forces are trying to play, which is a diversion from their assigned mission of securing a total Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon.

4. Stressed the necessity of achieving national unity between all factions of the Palestinian Revolution, and rejected the stand of some organizations which fail to see that this unity must be achieved through revolutionary practice.

5. Saluted the steadfastness of the Palestinian people under occupation, and their commitment to the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

6. Stressed the necessity of reinforcing the militant relations between the Palestinian Revolution and Syria.

7. Affirmed its rejection and condemnation of Sadat's initiative and his repressive measures against the press and stressed the necessity of reinforcing the Confrontation and Steadfastness Front.

8. Saluted the socialist bloc, particularly the Soviet Union, and condemned the imperialist policy against the Palestinian people's aspirations, and in support of Israel, as shown in the US policy of supplying Israel with weapons.



WEST GERMAN COURT PROHIBITS PALESTINIAN STUDENTS AND WORKERS UNIONS

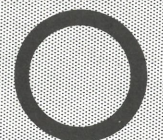
West Berlin, AFP

The West German Federal Court, meeting in West Berlin, has issued an order prohibiting any Palestinians militants from West Germany. The General Union of Palestinian Students and the General Union of Palestinian Workers were prohibited by the Court on June 10.

It is worth mentioning that the two branches of these Palestinian organizations were prohibited in a decree issued by the West German Minister of the Interior, and Acting Foreign Minister, Hans Dietrich Genscher, in 1972, after the Munich operation.

The West German court alleges that these two organizations threaten the internal security of the Federal Republic of Germany, because the programs of those two organizations, support, without reservations, the liberation of Palestine under the leadership of the armed Palestinian Revolution.

The West German Court justified its decision by saying that the beliefs of the two organizations might lead to the assumption that they support acts of terror.





...another homeless family.

PALESTINIAN FORCES REPULSE ISRAELI LANDING IN SOUTH LEBANON

On June 9, the Zionist enemy carried out a sea-borne landing on the Aqbeya coast, in the Sarafand region of South Lebanon. The aggression was executed by Israeli naval commando units using landing craft and supported by gunboats and a destroyer. Ships stationed in the Mediterranean kept up a heavy artillery barrage all along the coast, in an attempt to keep reinforcements from reaching the Palestinian forces.

Commandos of the Palestinian Revolution heroically confronted the landing and forced the Zionist forces to withdraw under cover of naval and air support. Palestinian forces inflicted heavy losses on the aggressors, including the killing and wounding of a number of officers and men. Israeli officials admitted to only two officers killed and eight soldiers wounded, in what was clearly an attempt to cover up the severity of their casualties.

The dramatic failure of the Israeli operation was the second

consecutive failure, the first being the fifth Middle East war waged against South Lebanon in March. The only difference was that the latest Israeli adventure was executed by the new Chief of Staff, General Eytan, in what he thought would be a quick blow against the Palestinian Revolution, and help make amends for Mordechai Gur's



Zionist barbarism - the continuing saga of destruction.

failure in the South Lebanon war, not to mention the consolidating of his own position. But the determined resistance his forces met ensured that their allotted task was not met, and even their withdrawal was a difficult and costly task. This will not be the first failure that Eytan will meet at the hands of the Palestinian resistance.

The timing of the operation comes only days before the expected Israeli withdrawal from the whole of South Lebanon. The operation is intended to point out to the whole world that the Israelis can attack Palestinian refugees regardless of whether there is a UN 'buffer zone' or not. Moreover, it is intended as a reinforcement of the call by Israel's Lebanese puppets, the right wing fascists, to abrogate all Palestinian-Lebanese accords, and for the disarmament of the Palestinian Revolution.

This latest Zionist adventure, as was pointed out by UN Secretary General, Kurt Waldheim, comes at a "time when all concerned, are engaged in efforts to implement the Security Council Resolution with regard to South Lebanon," (Associated Press, 16/6/'78). That is, the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all Israeli forces from Lebanon. In this respect the operation represents another act of contempt and derision towards the world body.

With all the odds taken into consideration the Israeli operation was a dismal failure. The heroic resistance shown by the Palestinian forces in registering Eytan's first of many defeats, is a message to the Israeli military command that they will continue to register defeats until the Palestinian Revolution achieves its objectives.

The site of the attack, contrary to Zionist allegations, was not a Palestinian naval base, nor was it a

staging area for an intended commando attack on the Zionist entity. Note that a number of Lebanese civilians were killed in the raid and their fishing boats destroyed. Several such Zionist adventures have proved that so-called preemptive Israeli strikes, neither give the Zionist entity the tranquility it seeks, nor stops Palestinian revolutionaries from carrying out operations inside the occupied territories, both those of 1967 and 1948, in the struggle to liberate their usurped land.

A Palestinian military spokesman stated that "one of our guerrillas died as a martyr with all pride in the land of Palestine. The Revolution will remain faithful to our martyrs and will not forget them." The operation was code-named "martyr Abu Ali Iyyad" after a Palestinian commando leader who was martyred in northern Jordan, in 1971, during a clash with troops of the Hashemite regime of Jordan.

The operation was aimed at affirming the Revolution's ability to face the enemy in all parts of the occupied land of Palestine. Another aim was to enhance revolutionary resistance to all capitulationist conspiracies directed against the cause of the Palestinian people and homeland, and the dignity of the Arab nation.

The Mehola colony was set up in February of 1968, and was the first settlement to be established in the West Bank in the Jordan River Valley. It covers an area of 7,000 dunums of the lands of Bardala, Ain al-Baida, and Um as-Sous. Later in 1969 it was turned into a religious colony, affiliated to the Ha-Poel Hamezrahi Party. The colony houses more than 500 settlers and cultivates grapefruit. It contains a metallurgy plant, and has artesian wells which irrigates fields in the surrounding area.

PALESTINIAN COMMANDOS STORM ISRAELI COLONY

In the early hours of the morning of June 12, Palestinian commandos of the "Martyr Abu Ali Iyyad" group were able to storm the centre of the Mehola colony situated in the northern Jordan River Valley, south of the city of Bisan. As the assault unit opened fire at specific targets, using rockets, hand grenades, and machine guns, the support unit shelled the colony with mortars, while the demolition unit planted explosive charges in four targets, including metallurgy plants affiliated to

the Ministry of War, and the water company, which provides for the needs of Zionist settlers in the surrounding area.

Violent clashes continued for more than three hours inside the colony, as mobile and airborne troops were thrown into the battle in order to encircle the Palestinian units. The latter were, however, able to break the siege and make their way to their base after hoisting Fateh and Palestinian flags in the colony.



Israeli mobile and airborne troops join the battle.



PALESTINIAN JOURNALIST EXPOSES ZIONIST BRUTALITY

On May 7, the militant Palestinian journalist, Raymonda Tawil, was released from six weeks of detention in Zionist jails, during which her jailers desperately sought for any excuse with which to keep her in custody. Four days later they had found their excuse, and she was rearrested on a charge of assaulting an Israeli soldier. The charge resulted from her heroic actions in the demonstration described below.

In the aftermath of the March 1978, Zionist invasion of South Lebanon, Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, on March 23, staged demonstrations of protest and condemnation against the new Zionist aggression, expressing the unity of aims and destiny between Palestinians inside Palestine and those outside.

Raymonda Tawil was one journalist who rushed to the scenes of the various demonstrations, to cover the activities. Her heroic stands against the Zionist occupation were already well known to the authorities; in fact they regarded her mere presence as an 'anti-security' incident.

The Zionist soldiers made their usual response to peaceful Palestinian demonstrations; they attacked the Palestinians, beating them with their batons and whips. Raymonda Tawil could not just stand by while witnessing the Zionist brutality against her people; she tried to stop a Zionist soldier who was beating a Palestinian youth, after which a fierce argument broke out between her and the Israeli troops.



Raymonda Tawil, attacked, raided, jailed, and tortured.

"If you were unable to defeat us in Lebanon, don't try to ease yourselves by torturing us here," Raymonda shouted into the face of the Zionist commander. Enraged, the Zionist soldiers attacked her, breaking her camera and destroying the film.

At 4.00 am the next morning, Zionist troops raided Mrs. Tawil's home and confiscated all her documents, and cassettes. She was then arrested and put into a cell, alone, with no lighting. Her Zionist interrogators practiced both physical and psychological torture on her.

From her very first day in the prison she was subjected to the brutality and barbarism of the 'new Nazis', the Zionists. When she affirmed that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, wherever

they are, a Zionist officer spat in her face and repeatedly slapped her. Another officer, who came to question her, punched her in the face, then took hold of her hair and smashed her head against the wall until the blood ran out of her mouth and nose. She was left without any medical treatment

even though she continually called for a doctor.

The next day, Mrs. Tawil was visited by representatives of the International Red Cross. They were shocked with what they had seen and demanded that she be taken to a hospital. Even during her short release from prison the results of the torture were evident upon her person. Undoubtedly, since her rearrest she has been subjected to new threats and brutalities from her Zionist jailers. But as she has said in the past, "We are like grass; the more you cut us the more we grow."

Raymonda's militancy and resistance to the occupation goes back a long way. Two years ago she was imprisoned, and when released she was put under house arrest for a considerable period, with Zionist intelligence keeping an eye on her. Even her telephone line was cut off.

Mrs. Tawil's activities are not limited to the Palestinian community or even those who support the Palestinian cause. She extended her work into the communities of those who are supposed to be her antagonists, to stress the PLO's ultimate aim of coexistence in Palestine irrespective of religious, national, or racial considerations.

On this basis she held many discussions and lectures in the Zionist kibbutzim, (collective agricultural communities), where she explained the real aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In one of these lectures, she

told the youths of the Shufal kibbutz, "After one or two years you will graduate and become soldiers in the Israeli army. Your dialogue with us will change and won't be as it is now. You will come with the occupation army to the West Bank to disperse our demonstrations and attack our children. This camouflage will radically change you. I can see you striking my children with your batons, whips, and tear gas grenades... Now it is in your hands and I appeal to you to move and halt this before it occurs."

A few days later, after the heroic Palestinian military operation was carried out by the Deir Yassin forces on the Haifa-Tel Aviv road, Raymonda Tawil received a letter from the students of Shufal Kibbutz, saying: "You were right, blood draws only blood. We will send a telegram to Begin calling upon him to withdraw from the occupied territories."

Raymond Tawil, like all the Palestinians, has suffered much from the Zionist occupation of her country. Her story is one Palestinian story, a story that is common to the thousands of other Palestinian who continue to resist the brutality and savagery of the Zionist occupation forces. For every "Raymonda Tawil" that is imprisoned their will be a hundred more to take her place in the continuing struggle of the Palestinian people for their legitimate human and national rights.



OCCUPATION DIARY

SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES CONTINUING

The Israelis are continuing with their settlement activities in the occupied Arab territories, without regard to international and internal pressures.

Construction was recently resumed on a new settlement and a gas station in the Jordan Valley region, in the occupied West Bank. The settlement, which will be named "Paget", will be inhabited by Jewish settlers of French origin. The gas station, on the other hand, will be the first station owned and run by the Israeli authorities in the West Bank.

On June 2, Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Minister of Agriculture and Head of the Knesset Settlement Committee declared that 20 new colonies are to be built in upper Galilee during the next three years. Earlier, the Israeli government had allocated a budget for settlement purposes in the Galilee region, and confiscated hundreds of dunums of Galilee land for this purpose.

In this regard the Israeli authorities intend to seek the assistance of West European Jews for the industrial projects that will be set up in the colonies.

Meanwhile, the unified Kibbutz movement has completed the construction of a new settlement in the occupied Golan Heights, according to Israeli newspaper reports published on June 8. The colony will absorb in the first

stages, about 40 families who will work on agricultural projects, pending the setting up of an industrial project. Three other colonies set up by the movement, in the Syrian Golan Heights, were also recently completed.

PALESTINIAN MILITANT DIES UNDER TORTURE

The militant Palestinian lawyer, Salim Farid Hafez Ghanam, died on May 28, in the Nablus prison, as a result of the savage torture inflicted by his Israeli jailers.

Ghanam, who was 54, was arrested by the Zionist authorities in 1975, and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment on charges of affiliation to the Palestinian Revolution and resisting the occupation. The martyr's family demanded a thorough investigation of the causes of his death. They and the citizens of Nablus insist that Ghanam was premeditatedly killed by his Zionist jailers.

Over 6,000 Palestinians from all over the West Bank marched in the funeral procession held for Farid Ghanam, who was buried in his hometown of Jabe', in the Jenin district.

In the wake of the militant lawyer's death, Zionist troops rushed to Nablus, where check-points were set up, and an intensive search was carried out amongst the citizens. A general state of tension prevailed in the city.

The General Union of Palestinian Jurists, on May 29,

denounced Israel's total disrespect for the Geneva Convention, and for international laws relating to the treatment of prisoners. Palestinian lawyers addressed cables of protest and concern to Amnesty International in London, the Human Rights Commission in Geneva, and other international organizations.

The Committee for the Defence of Palestinian Prisoners and Detainees, on May 31, deplored the militant's death under torture, and called upon international juridical and medical organizations to investigate the death, and to pressure the Zionist authorities into ending torture in prisons, and to cancel the British Emergency Regulations which are still in force in the occupied territories.

PALESTINIAN STUDENTS UNDER OCCUPATION RELEASE COMMUNIQUE

In a communique released on the occasion of the passage of 11 years since the Zionist occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Union of Palestinian Students in occupied Palestine stressed that in the 11 years of occupation, Israel was not able to guarantee its own security and peace, which proves that a people oppressing another cannot itself be free. In this context they condemned the Israeli authorities' banning of their demonstration on June 5.

The communique then said that there will be no just and lasting peace in the Middle East unless the Palestinian people regain their legitimate rights and establish their

independent state on their land, and accordingly demanded an immediate Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories.

The communique concluded by calling on all peace-loving forces to raise their voices so as to terminate the Israeli occupation of Arab land.

ISRAELI AUTHORITIES BAN 3 PALESTINIAN STUDENTS FROM LEAVING WEST BANK

The Zionist occupation authorities have recently refused to grant travel permits to three students from the village of Arraba who were going to sit for their exams in Arab Universities.

One student, Abdel Wahhab, who had come to visit his family in July 1977 has since then been harassed daily without reason, while his ID was withheld by the military governor. The second, Abdel Rahman Qassem Attary, a junior student at the University of Damascus came to visit his family in 1977 and since then the Zionist authorities prevented him from leaving. The third, Yusuf Hussein Ali, was arrested for 3 months without charges. After he was released, he was banned from leaving the West Bank.

WEST BANK DOCTORS: NO TO ISRAELI ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

In a memorandum to the Israeli authorities, the director of General Health, Dr. Hussain Ebeid, and the director of the Hospitals Department, Dr. Shehadeh Shehadeh, affirmed their rejection of any changes in the administra-

tion of services in the West Bank and said they will accept no alternates to the pre-occupation regulations. They stressed that the administrative changes which the Israeli authorities intend to make are part of the "self-rule" project and are therefore unacceptable to them and to all West Bankers.

DEMONSTRATIONS IN GAZA AGAINST CANCELLATION OF FISHING PERMITS

The Zionist authorities have recently confiscated the fishing permits of a large number of Palestinian fisherman in the Gaza Strip, allegedly for exceeding the area they were authorized to fish in, thus threatening their livelihood.

In protest against this procedure, the fishermen recently demonstrated in front of the Gaza municipality building and demanded that the Mayor intervene with the Israeli authorities and demand the return of their licences.

MILITARY OPERATIONS

The following military communiques have been issued over the last two weeks by the Palestinian military spokesman:—

No. 58/78,

Palestinian commando forces of the Hani Jawhariya unit, operating inside occupied Palestine, on June 2, placed explosive charges inside an enemy bus. The charges exploded, resulting in a large number of enemy casualties, totally destroying the bus, and damaging nearby vehicles and buildings.

No 59/78:

At dawn on 2/6/78, one of our commando units operating inside occupied Palestine placed timed

explosive charges underneath a bench in Mamilla park in Jerusalem. At 7:30 a.m. the charges exploded, inflicting casualties and causing damage in the park. Immediately after the operation, Israeli police vacated the park while enemy patrols and check-points in Jerusalem arrested a number of Palestinian citizens for their alleged involvement in the operation. Our commandos nevertheless returned safely to base.

No. 60/78:

On the night of 2/6/78, one of our commando units operating inside occupied Palestine placed timed incendiary bombs in the central vegetable market near Paris Square in Haifa. At midnight the charges exploded, starting a huge fire which burned the contents of the market and injured several night guards. Immediately after the explosion, enemy police and fire engines were rushed to the site, which was immediately vacated. The firemen, however, could not control the flames until four hours later. Enemy material losses are estimated to be high. Our commandos nevertheless returned safely to base.

No 61/78:

At 7:15 a.m. on June 6th, one of our commando units operating inside occupied Palestine attacked a bus belonging to the Dan company along the Ramallah-Lydd road near the village of Shuqbe. After getting the driver out of the bus, our commandos tossed a number of incendiary bombs into it setting it afire. The unit then returned safely to base, as enemy patrols combed the area, arresting a number of Palestinians on suspicion of involvement in the operation.

PALESTINIAN MASSES CONTINUE THE RESISTANCE



The resistance to the Israeli occupation increases daily.

The Zionist dream of the realization of a 'Greater Israel' assumed a concrete dimension in the aftermath of the Arab-Israeli war of 1967, when vast amounts of Arab land were overrun by the invading Israelis. Since then, a whole people have been living under the yoke of Zionist occupation, a brand of racist and national oppression which manifests itself in the pre-1967 occupied Palestinian lands as well as in those taken over in 1967, i.e., the West Bank and Gaza.

The Palestinian masses resistance to the occupation has been spontaneous, while passing through a number of different stages of development. A transitional phase was necessary, during which the movement sought its means of resistance. However, at the beginning, overt dynamic resistance was nearly impossible because of the intensity of the Zionist's repressive measures. Any whisper of resistance was ruthlessly suppressed. Thus the oppressed people had to resort to passive forms of resistance such as demonstrating and marching.

The incessant attempts of the reactionary agents of the Zionists in the Arab world to weaken the internal resistance through liqui-

dating the sanctuaries of the armed resistance in the surrounding Arab countries, failed. Each time the resistance movement was placed in a perilous position by its enemies, the popular resistance movement in the occupied territories became stronger and more united. The spontaneous mass resistance generated in the wake of the Zionist invasion of South Lebanon, is but one example.

The popular campaigns waged by the Palestinian masses under occupation, on behalf of their brothers who were being slain at the hands of the Jordanian army in 1970, and the Lebanese fascists, in 1975-76, are other manifestations of the united, indivisible efforts of all Palestinians for national liberation.

It is well worth noting that it is not only the West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians who resist occupation, for the movement encompasses the Palestinians who still reside inside the 1948 occupied land, who also identify themselves with the Palestinian resistance movement. In this regard, an important document was signed on February 22, 1978, by 56 Palestinian personalities living in that occupied land. The document noted the impossibility of ignoring

the basic fundamental reality, which is that the Palestinian question constitutes the core of the Middle East conflict. The document confirms that there can be no solution without the recognition of the Palestinians inalienable, historic, political rights, and that the Palestine Liberation Organization is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Commenting on this document, the Zionist media declared that "it was the most prudent statement ever to be voiced by Arabs living in Israel."

The latest conspiracies aimed at the Palestinian people and their revolution, as well as at other Arab liberation movements — namely Sadat's visit to Israel, and the Israeli invasion of South Lebanon — kindled the fires of Arab wrath, and the indignation of the

masses living under occupation. The way in which Sadat's initiative was received within the Palestinian milieu is one example.

Today, in the occupied territories, resistance is occurring with greater impetus and frequency, and both qualitative and quantitative escalation is taking place. Resistance in its various forms,

armed and passive, characterizes daily life in occupied Palestine. For reasons pertaining to the need for security, and the circumstances as a whole, Palestinians tend to organize themselves into small independent cells from which they can deal mortal blows at the enemy. These cells are versatile and act swiftly as they are able to maintain the initiative in their hands.

In a desperate move to crush the growing resistance, the Zionists resort to methods of collective punishment, arbitrary, arrest, and torture. The authorities excuse their inability to deal with the growing resistance by blaming it on "external infiltration, mainly from Lebanon,"! Continued and growing resistance after the establishment of the so-called 'security belt' in Lebanon refutes this claim.

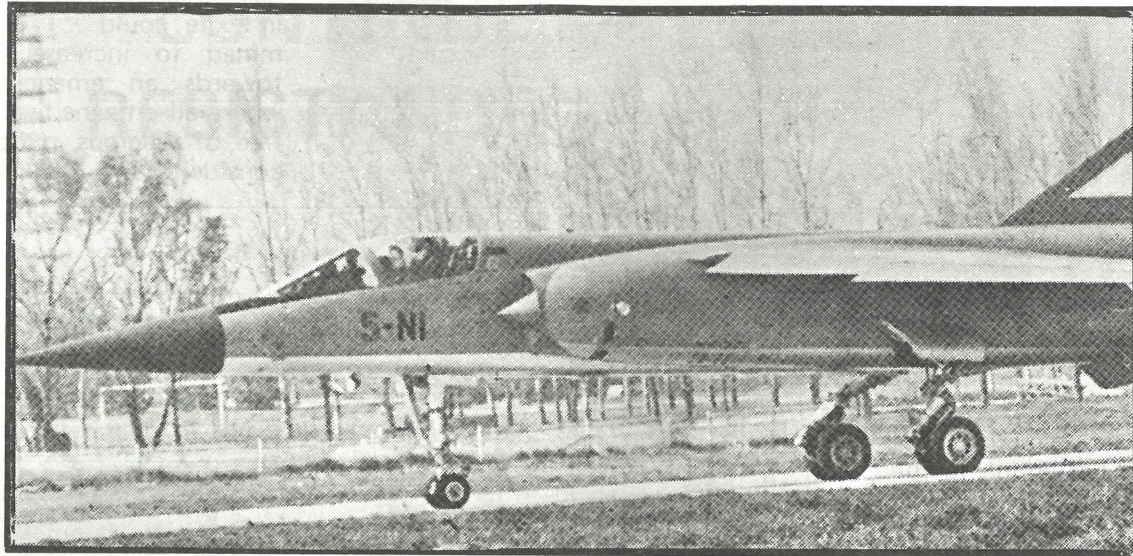
Dayan's recent 'moderate' statement that the occupied territories military occupation should come to an end, and be replaced by "a local administrative system", is nothing but a disguise for continued occupation — to be maintained by behind the scenes Israeli force of arms. The Palestinian people are manifesting more than ever the will and the desire for



national independence, and the exercise of their right to self-determination. For them, resistance is the only road towards their immediate and long term objectives.

Zionist-imperialist attempts at finding an alternative to the PLO have failed proving once more the inevitable fact, that the Palestinians will not forever live under the colonial yoke. The rest of the Palestinian people, who are living in exile, could be more determined to increase their struggle towards an emancipated society where all citizens live and associate free of religious, national, or racial considerations.

FRANCE'S ADVENTURE IN AFRICA



French Mirage aircraft to the defence of African reaction and racism.

The decline of France's might as a colonial power, as manifested by its defeat at the hands of national liberation movements in Africa and Asia, has forced it to reorganize its colonial adventures. France's neo-colonialist policy has been developed to meet the needs of western greed in general, and growing US imperialism in particular. There is no better example than Vietnam in illustrating this fact. In Vietnam, France left the arena for its big brother, America, which was also made to pay the price by the Vietnamese people.

France, instead, has resorted to expanding its arms exports to the Middle East and Africa, as a means of wielding world influence. To this end, France has prepared itself to be the third largest arms exporter in the world. Moreover, the French have opted for maintaining stooge regimes in Africa at the expense of the indigenous people, by maintaining a military presence in the region.

It has now been some time

since France launched its undeclared war in Africa, in support of racism and various reactionary regimes. To this end, France has set up an elite force of 20,000 light armed troops who can be airlifted to Africa on eight hours notice, (of course, with US help). Moreover, there is the Foreign Legion, a mercenary force created in 1831, by King Louis Philippe, as a force of foreign troops to fight abroad and safeguard France's interests. This unit has spearheaded France's colonial adventures, from Algeria to Indo-China, and more recently from Mauritania to Zaire. A part of this force is being turned over to the racist regimes of southern Africa. Early this year "a number of commandos left the Legion in order to join the Rhodesian army," (Time, 5/6/78).

France has over 13,000 troops on the ground in Africa, distributed among Mauritania, Chad, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Djibouti, Zaire, and the Reunion and Mayotte Islands. Moreover,

France has deployed 27 warships and several squadrons of fighter planes in the Indian Ocean region. France's troops in Africa, together with the 1,200 troops it has sent to Lebanon, means that "most of France's regular strike force is already committed in Africa and the Middle East," (Guardian, 1/6/78).

In Chad alone, 2,000 French troops, supported by squadrons of Jaguar fighters, are fighting Frolinat forces. "The government of President Felix Malloum appears unpopular and inept, government forces have surrendered to inferior forces. Yet France has been reluctant to disengage from the Malloum regime, apparently because of France's version of the domino theory," (International Herald Tribune, 25/5/78). This holds true for most of its involvement in Africa. France has 22 military cooperation treaties, and four defence treaties with African countries. The French have even admitted "paying the £10 million bill for the coronation of Emperor

Bokassa of the Central African Empire," (Guardian, 12/1/78). All this is executed under the cover of 'helping Africa develop,' and 'checking Soviet influence,' in order to protect western and French trade, particularly with France's former colonies and their raw materials; including copper in Zaire, iron in Mauritania, and uranium in Chad. The question that arises is whether France is undertaking such adventures in Africa by itself? Obviously not!

France is only the spearhead of a western adventure headed by the United States. The US, after its defeat by the peoples of Indo-China has refrained from direct military involvement abroad. The 'Clark' amendment to the US Constitution prevents the President from sending military personnel abroad without the prior approval of the US Congress. Instead, the US fights its imperialist wars by proxy. For such western adventures in Africa, no other country could have been chosen but France because of its neo-colonialist links with its former colonies. The French President, unlike other western leaders, can send troops abroad without notice. Other western leaders have to get the approval of their respective legislative bodies before doing so. Moreover, it is necessary for NATO members to meet before launching any aggression in Africa or other parts of the world.

In spite of being a major arms exporting nation, France does not have the capability of carrying out large military operations abroad alone, the so-called Zaire rescue operation has proved that. Eighteen US military C-130 and C-140 transport planes were used to airlift French troops and to bring in from the US the gasoline and heavy weaponry that was used. Still, the French forces in Zaire were "commandeering civilian vehicles for some patrols and shipping their ammunition in a bus," (Guardian, 1/6/78). These facts, together with statements released during NATO's latest meeting in Washington, make us agree with the French opposition parties which have declared that "the Zaire intervention is a NATO

operation, hatched in Brussels," (Newsweek, 5/6/78). Their latest move is the setting up of a so-called 'African Force'.

An African Gendarmery?

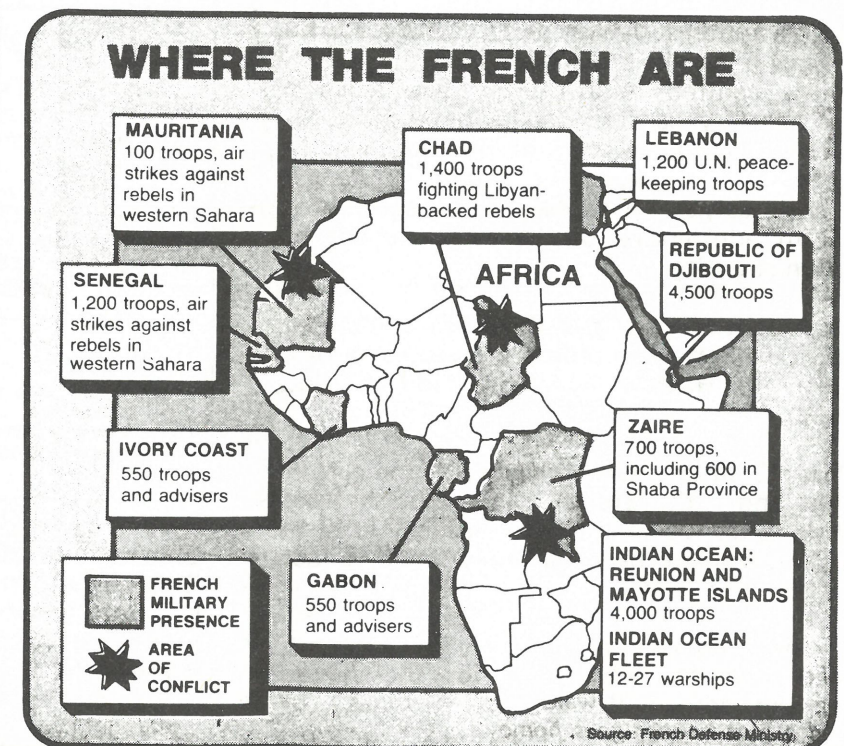
NATO, together with France, has decided to set up a neo-colonialist army in Africa. This is expected to put its military intervention in an African context. French President, Giscard d'Estaing, in his end of May meeting with US President Carter, officially declared that "he wants the US to support the pan-African peacekeeping force, to which the President promised concerted action with the French," (Times, 5/6/78).

The so-called pan-African force, which is to be composed of troops from Morocco and three other Francophone countries, is to be technically under the control of NATO and France through its logistics and training. This means the reinstatement of the old colonial armies. Of course, each country that sends troops to Zaire or anywhere else in Africa, will have these troops replaced with French troops. So the move is not an African undertaking, but a neo-colonialist manoeuvre aimed at

maintaining racist and reactionary regimes to fulfil western economic greed.

It is worth pointing out here that this NATO adventure, spearheaded by France, is being undertaken contrary to the Charter and stated aims of the Organization of African Unity. The so-called 'Pan-African Force' was neither discussed nor organized by the OAU, the pan-African organization, but was formulated by France, under the auspices of West Germany, Britain, the United States, and Belgium.

The self-deception of NATO, and the hypocrisy of France's stated aim of intervening in Africa to 'combat external aggression' has been exposed on several past occasions, when the French have supplied military aid to one country to be used aggressively against another. Besides, what third world nation, let alone any African state, is going to believe the honesty of France's and NATO's crocodile tears, especially when these countries are the major arms suppliers and allies of the racist regimes of South Africa and Rhodesia?



ZIONISM IN PRACTICE

ENEMY SHELLS SOUTH LEBANON INTENSIVELY

A military spokesman for the Joint Forces on May 30, issued the following communique:—

First: Zionist forces, at 5:30 PM on May 30, shelled Nabatiya, Arnoun and Beaufort castle with heavy artillery.

Second: At 6:25 PM, on May 30, the enemy expanded the scope of its shelling to include the Haboush area, al-Zahrani, Kfar Tibnit, Kfar Rumman and the Qaqa'iya Bridge.

Third: At 8:00 PM, on May 30, the toll of casualties reached 22. All injured or killed were Lebanese

civilians. The following were indetified:— Husain Taufic Naser — born in Arza in the Sidon region; Abed al-Hussain Sabra — born in Zakak al Bilat, as well as three mutilated bodies which could not be identified. The martyrs and the wounded were transfered to the governmental hospital in Sidon.

Fifth: — As of 9:15 PM, on May 30, the enemy, with the cooperation of the Isolationist forces, was still shelling the above-mentioned villages, in addition to the Jib Shiet area, Rouwyd and the villages surrounding it.

An information source in the Palestinian Revolution issued the following statement:—

"Israel and isolationist forces in

South Lebanon have been carrying out a dangerous escalation of the military situation by launching a heavy and concentrated artillery bombardment of civilian areas in Nabatiyeh and a number of other villages.

"In the face of this dangerous escalation carried out by the allied Israeli and isolationist forces, which has taken the lives of a number of innocent Lebanese and Palestinian civilians, the Palestinian Revolution finds it impossible to stand by with hands folded without responding, at a time when its masses are receiving criminal blows. The Palestinian Revolution has practiced restraint, since it understands the political motives behind this sudden escalation against the positions of the Joint Forces, and its masses in particular.

"The leadership of the Revolution also carried out urgent consultations with the command of the U.N. forces in the South, and the Lebanese authorities in this regard.

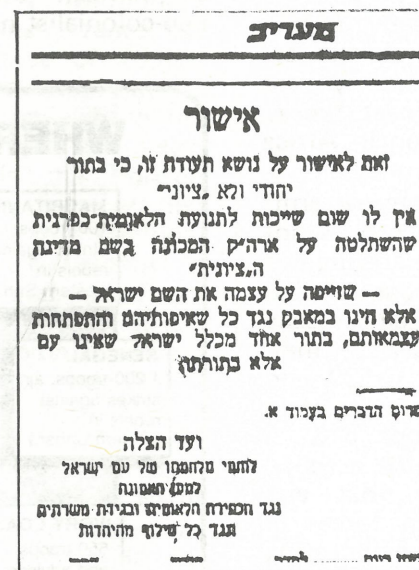
JEWISH SECT ISSUES ANTI-ISRAELI PASSPORTS

The anti-Zionist Jewish sect, Natourei Karta, also known as the "Guardians of the City", which is centred in Jerusalem, has issued a Jewish identity card shaped as a passport, to be distributed to members of the sect living in Palestine and overseas. The issuing of such a card came as part of the sect's propaganda for the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Zionist entity.

The identity card has 26 pages containing all the details that an ordinary passport carries, written in Hebrew, Arabic, Yiddish, and English.

Page 13 states that the owner of the card is Jewish and not Zionist, and that he has nothing to do with the infidel national Judaism that is dominant over the Holy Land, under the false name 'Israel'.

The identity card is signed by the Committee of Salvation, who fight for the Jewish faith, and against the nationalist fallacy of



Zionism and the falsifications accompanying it. Besides the personal material it contains, it also has anti-Zionist material in it, strongly condemning Zionism as a colonial movement totally divorced from the Jewish religion.

Maariv, May 4, 1978.



Bedouins at prayer during a demonstration at the Knesset.

OPPRESSION OF BEDOUINS ON THE INCREASE

Within occupied Palestine, there live some 60,000 Bedouin Arabs, nearly all of whom live in the Naqab and Galilee. The Zionist authorities have been persecuting and oppressing these people for nearly thirty years, under chauvinistic slogans such as 'Defence of National Land' and 'Developing the Naqab'.

In recent times this oppression has dramatically increased and become firmly institutionalized, as the authorities try to concentrate these people into so-called 'exemplary townships'; in setting up an official body to coordinate the oppression, (the Superior Bedouin Committee); and by establishing an armed force to actually carry

out the oppression, (the Green Patrol).

There is a number of inter-related facets to the Zionists attitudes and actions towards the Bedouin Arabs. There is the oppression centred on the expropriation of Bedouin lands, which amount to an area of 1,500,000 dunums, (app. 350,000 acres), on which the Bedouins have lived for centuries and for which they have documents proving their ownership. In this regard, the Zionist authorities destroy their homes, schools, trees, and plantations, and generally lay waste to the land. Later, they build settlements, on the stolen lands and move in

factories and other production facilities.

The Zionist authorities also want to transform the Bedouins into a cheap source of labour for the Israeli economy. Thus Bedouins are forced, in some cases, to become agricultural labourers on land upon which they and their forefathers had previously lived and worked for many hundreds of years. Others are forced into becoming dishwashers, garbage removers, and industrial labourers.

The Naqab region witnesses some of the most stringent security seen in the Zionist entity. The region is increasingly becoming a

OPPRESSION OF BEDOUINS ON THE INCREASE

centre for weapons research, development, and production. In May 1977, as part of the Zionist authorities campaign to 'develop and populate the Naqab,' they announced the transfer of 11 arms and military equipment factories into the region. At the same time, plans were announced for the setting up of 110 new settlements in the south-west of the Naqab, and in the Rafah district of north Sinai, (Guardian, 9/5/77). The Zionist authorities stated that no Arab would be allowed anywhere 'near' the factories, thus providing themselves with another excuse with which to further usurp Bedouin land.

Israel's nuclear reactor at Dimona, in the Naqab, which has been in operation since 1964, forms the centre of Israel's nuclear weapons development program. Plutonium from Dimona has been used for the construction of at least 13 Israeli atomic bombs, (Time, 5/4/76). Thus to the Zionist paranoics, it becomes a priority to 'rid' the area of the Bedouin people, so that their nuclear program may be carried out unhindered.

The recent upsurge in Bedouin protests comes after the proclamation by the Zionist authorities of an order to seize 26,000 dunums of Bedouin land, south of Dimona, and the revelation of plans to seize 50,000 dunums, (app. 12,500 acres), in all.

Sheikh Salman El-Assam called notables and representatives of the Naqab people together for a meeting in a large tent set up beside his house. Over 500 delegates attended, and speakers called for the Zionist authorities to put an end to the confiscation of Arab land, and condemned the practices of the notorious 'Green Patrol'.

They also called on the Naqab inhabitants to resist the Zionist attempts at expelling them from their land.

The 'Green Patrol' is composed of an armed Zionist force organized by the authorities, and under the control of Agricultural Minister, Ariel Sharon. Under the pretext of the 'protection of national land', the Green Patrol storm unprotected Arab homes, destroying them and evicting the inhabitants.

The meeting noted that the commander of the 'Green Patrol', General Abraham Uvi, won the medal of Natural Beauty as a reward for his good work in clearing large areas of the Naqab of its Arab inhabitants, as well as their major resource, their cattle. To Sharon and his Zionist thugs, the Bedouin are the "invading enemy and it is a supreme imperative to remove them from national land," (Haaretz, 30/9/77).

As a result of the meeting of Bedouin representatives, the Bedouin people, grouped together with members of the regional Committee for the Defence of the Land, Nazereth Mayor, Tawfiq Zayyad, and several Jewish democratic leaders, on April 19, marched upon the Knesset, protesting the expropriation of their land and the activities of the notorious 'Green Patrol'.

As has proven the case so often in the past, protests to the Zionist authorities proved to no avail, and the authorities merely increased their expropriation activities.

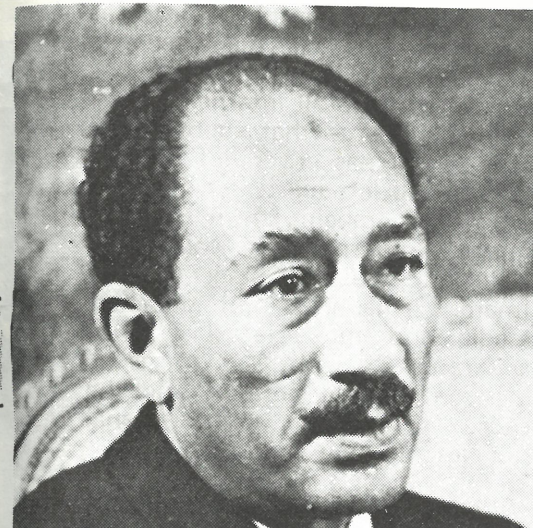
"On May 17, at 9.30am, more than 30 armed soldiers and policemen came in nine cars, two trucks, and an earth-moving tractor. They surrounded us, took our tents, and threw everything on the trucks with the help of the tractor. They thrust the lifting arm of the tractor inside the tent, and raised everything: our wheat, flour, sugar, tea, gold, and jewellery — they took everything including the money that was among the clothes in the tent.

"They threw us, and the women and children, out forcibly. Armed soldiers threatened us with weapons. I asked the police sergeant not to aim at the children, and he answered me, 'Shut up, who are you to be here? If you don't shut up I will put a bullet in your head.'" As a result of the activities of the 'Green Patrol' described above, 45 families were left homeless, (Guardian, 22/5/78, and International Herald Tribune, 23/5/78). The above events were described to reporters by Sheikh Aid Salam Ganama, at a press conference called by the Bedouin Arabs in Jerusalem, on May 21.

Ibrahim Abu Rahek, describing the terror tactics of the 'Green Patrol', said, "The activities of the 'Green Patrol' have become so obnoxious they have forced us to act. Women and children see their Jeeps and panic. Children are afraid to go to school." "They do not differentiate between human beings and animals," said one young Bedouin," (Guardian, 22/5/78).

Progressive Jewish groups have rallied behind the Bedouins in their campaign in defence of their land and human rights. Dr. Meir Pa'il, of the Shelli Party, demanded urgent action against the 'deplorable' acts of the 'Green Patrol'.

The Bedouin people of Palestine, are thus, not resigned to the Zionist land expropriations and the uprooting of their people. They, like all Palestinians, continue the struggle against occupation, knowing that if they lose their land, they lose their history and culture. They also refuse to be turned into the cheap labour pool that the Zionists demand of them. Their resistance brings them many hardships, but they endure such hardships, knowing that victory will inevitably be theirs.

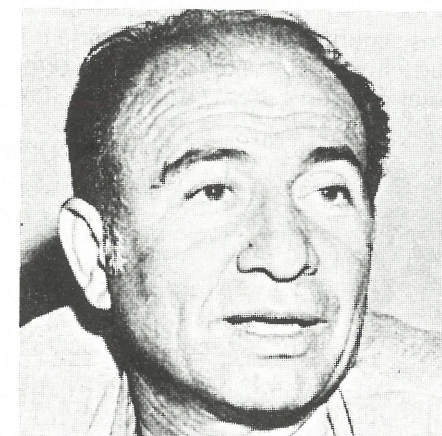
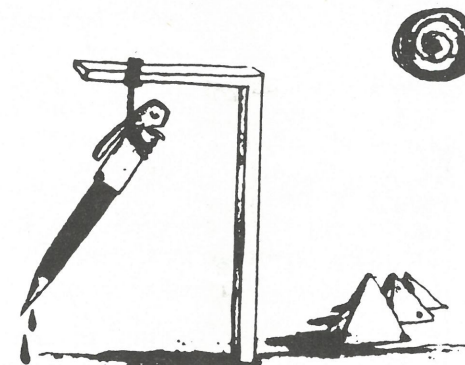


Sadat — what next?

CRACKDOWN IN EGYPT

Amidst the widespread economic and social unrest, which has become characteristic of politically bankrupt Egypt, President Sadat has taken measures to curb any opposition to his tottering policies.

On May 2, Sadat ordered a Cabinet reshuffle to bring into the government ministers who in his own words, "would face criticism inside or outside the People's Assembly," (The Times, 3/5/78). Nevertheless, a few days later, amidst mounting criticism of his government and policies, he decided to put an end to the facade of democracy he had created to impress his western backers. Accordingly, he organized a referendum to endorse a crackdown on his political opposition, which refused to participate in the referendum. Naturally, he declared that he had won the referendum overwhelmingly. Thus, he proceeded to implement his six-point plan for dealing with the recent increase in domestic political criticism. He used the referendum to legitimize his moves aimed at enforcing restrictions on political and press activity, and to completely ban his critics. The proposal also aims at purging the Progressive Unionist and the Wafd parties.



Khaled Mohieddine, leader of the Progressive Union Party.

But, what is really behind the political turbulence?

Egypt's Crippled Economy

The major economic difficulties, facing Egypt at present, have their roots in the launching of President Sadat's open-door economic policy. This policy was intended to strengthen Egypt's middle class, especially the business sector, and pave the way for the investment of foreign capital in Egypt. The implementation of the policy, named 'Infitah', would, according to Ali Amin, a leading columnist in Egyptian official newspapers, ensure that "the skies of Egypt would soon be raining

American greenback dollars," (Guardian, 10/4/78). But what really rained in Egypt were stones thrown by angry and hungry people concerned over price rises and inflation, such as during the January 1977 food riots.

The rises in the cost of living are a direct consequence of the exposure of the Egyptian economy to the imperialist money market. The west demands a sizable return for its investments, and Sadat reasoned that this could be met by strengthening Egypt's middle class. The result has been that the rich are becoming richer and the poor, poorer.

The population rises by 2.4% annually. Out of a total population of up to 40,000,000, no less than 11,000,000 live in the Cairo area alone, where population growth is 4.1% per annum. However, there is no comparable increase in urban employment possibilities, and the civil service and many industries are chronically overstuffed.

In the agricultural sector, where 44% of the labour force is now located, the problems are immense. Nearly half the rural population has no land and lives below the poverty line. Ten percent of those who dwell in the countryside account for nearly 33.3% of the expenditure on consumer items, while the bottom 40% account for 16.65%. The top 10% own 65% of the land, while the bottom half of the rural population own only 1%.

Among the economic measures adopted by Sadat to cope with such acute economic problems has been to set up a bottling plant for Coca-Cola, in Cairo, which 70% of the people cannot afford to drink anyway. A sizeable proportion of western investment has been channelled into such middle class ventures.

Capital coming from the Arab world, and amounting to almost \$12 billion, has been the main source of foreign aid to Egypt since the 1973 October war. But this aid has recently slowed down

due to the fact that aid from the Arab states, as determined by the Khartoum Resolutions, is conditional upon the "liquidation of the consequences of the Israeli aggression." Arab aid thus reached its peak when Egypt was still directly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Egypt's capitulationist stand has seriously affected its foreign stature.

The bankruptcy of Sadat's open door policy and the failure of his attempts to solve the country's economic problems, resulted in the fleeing to the US, of the chief architect of Sadat's policy, Deputy Prime Minister for Financial and Economic Affairs, Abdel Moneim Kaissouni, resigned "after a disagreement with Prime Minister, Mamdouh Salem, over the direction of Egypt's crippled economy," wrote New African Development, June 1978. This is a common characteristic of the Egypt of the present day, in which Sadat's open-door policy has neither solved Egypt's major internal economic problems, nor satisfied his international money lenders. Sadat's open-door policy is getting out of control, hurting Egypt's industries, causing high inflation, and benefitting the rich at the expense of the poor.

Sadat's Political Bankruptcy

It has become a ritual for Sadat to tell his people that the Arab peoples' war to liberate their land from Zionist occupation is the source of their misery. Accordingly, the Egyptian people were told to back Sadat's visit to Jerusalem because it would bring them peace and prosperity. The war, "they have been constantly told, is the real cause behind the deterioration of almost everything in Egypt, from telephones to the educational system," (Guardian, 10/4/78).

But it has not taken long for Sadat's so-called peace initiative to fade away, thus only adding to the misery of the Egyptian people. Sadat's unilateral attempt to sell out the Arab cause to Israel and its patron, the United States, has neither brought the peace, nor the

prosperity he promised the Egyptian people.

Egypt now finds itself isolated in the region, no longer able to play the prominent role assigned to it in pan-Arab politics; a role it played by virtue of its geography, its history, its culture, and the weight it carried in international politics, the latter of which, was in turn, dependent upon the position it held in the Arab world.

With the incessant thumbs-down that Sadat is receiving from Begin and company, to his incessant cries for Zionist acceptance of his capitulationist moves, and the fact that both his friends and enemies are pointing out to him that war and peace in the region are not in his hands, but in the hands of Palestine, its people and their revolution, he finds himself without a card to play.

Naturally, this has resulted in mounting internal opposition to his policies. Sadat, unable or unwilling to take effective remedial action, has chosen to take



GUPWJ TAKES IMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS REGARDING ANTI-PRESS MEASURES IN EGYPT

The Secretariat General of the General Union of Palestinian Writers and Journalists held a meeting at noon on May 29, to discuss Sadat's latest measures against Egyptian writers and journalists aimed at throttling all voices opposed to his capitulationist policy, and agreed on the following:—

First:— To call for emergency meetings of the permanent bureaus of the union of Arab Journalists and the Union of Arab writers, and to support the invitation issued by the Dean of Lebanese Journalists on this matter.

Second:— To send cables of protest to all Egyptian press and literary organizations and to the International Journalists Organization.

Third:— To coordinate with the General Union of Lebanese Writers and the Syndicate of Lebanese Journalists in order to organize a campaign of solidarity with Egyptian writers and journalists.

Fourth:— To strive for the formation of a committee of solidarity with Egyptian newspaper Al-Ahali.

absolute dictatorial power into his own hands. In what many see as a manoeuvre to buy time, he has chosen to crush all internal opposition. The purge that followed his referendum has covered both parties of the left and the right, and individuals, ranging from the prominent journalist, Mohammed Haikal, to the blind singer, Sheikh Imam. He has used both the mass media and the internal security apparatus to project an image of his continued popularity and the success of his external and internal policies.

Nevertheless, with the failure of Sudan's President, Numeiry, in his attempt to rally Arab support behind Sadat's capitulationist moves, and with Egypt's continued dependence on Arab support in helping it out of its economic plight — this support being dependent on Egypt fulfilling its Arab responsibilities — it is hardly conceivable that Sadat will achieve any economic or political breakthrough unless he ends his internal oppression and puts Egypt back in its Arab context.



Palestinian culture — reinforcing the Palestinian identity.



Dr. Fathi Arafat.

PALESTINE LIVES AND RESISTS

On Sunday, May 28, the Hall of 'Mutualité,' in Paris was packed with an attentive, enthusiastic, and impatient audience. The meeting took place under the slogan, 'Palestine Lives and Resists'. It was organized by the Franco-Palestinian Medical Association, the General Union of Palestinian Students, and by various European associations of solidarity with Palestine, including those of Switzerland, Belgium, Norway, and Holland. A Palestinian Red Crescent delegation, headed by Dr. Fathi Arafat, and including other militants in the medical sphere also took part. The Palestinian folkloric troupe and two Lebanese Maronite Christians were also present.

After the Palestine national anthem, Professor Lariviere, President of the Executive of the F.P.M.A. took the floor in a speech that was frequently inter-

rupted by tumultuous applause. In defining the major purpose of the meeting, he said, "The Zionist state celebrates its 30th anniversary with the drums of war. Our purpose today, is to demonstrate to French public opinion the terrorist aspect of this state. Through successive regional wars of aggression, leaning on imperialist support, Israel could neither destroy nor overcome the Palestinian people. Dispersed in their camps of exile or living under occupation, the Palestinian people remain a dynamic force with a national consciousness and culture of their own. They strive through their struggle to assert their basic national rights which is in contradiction to the Zionist wish of exterminating the Palestinians. The Palestinian people suffer but continue to live."

The PLO representative in Paris, Izzedine Kalak, reiterated the

conditions of exile, torture, detention, and expropriation which the Palestinian faces with determination. Thirty years of the existence of Israel — thirty years after the establishment of a heterogeneous entity which was designed to ensure imperialist domination over the Middle East. The Zionist movement has evicted a people from its homeland, from a land in which it was deeply rooted. In spite of all that has been done these Palestinian roots still live, for the Zionists have failed to eradicate them. The Palestinian lives and resists, lives because he resists; resists with arms and by maintaining his culture.

Palestinian culture manifests itself through songs, poetry, and folkloric music. It affirms the Palestinian people's identity, and their just struggle, waged throughout this century.

This expression of Palestinian militancy is of the utmost importance, remarked Izzedine Kalak, especially since there has for a long time existed in France, a campaign aimed at slandering and discrediting the Palestine Liberation Organization, and trying to show that Israel is a peacemaker, and which calls for the closure of the PLO's offices in Paris. The thrust of the Zionist allegations and claims has been interrupted by slogans such as, 'Down with Israel', 'Democratic Palestine', 'Total support for the PLO', and 'PLO is the legitimate representative'. These slogans have constituted an adequate response to all Zionist maneuvers.

Who could be more capable of talking about the Palestinians 'army of medical defence' than Dr. Fathi Arafat, who like the rest of the P.R.C. members, and the folkloric troupe, having just come out of the 'Fifth War' say: "In the wake of the 'Israeli army of aggression' destroying a hospital, we undertake to build two hospitals in its place.... our hospitals are breeding places for new fedayeen.... all free people in France, and the world at large, are on our side. It is with those free people that we shall continue our struggle and be victorious."

A particularly unique event took place during the folkloric troupe's performance, during the song, 'In Paris', when members of the troupe gave a kaffeyah, (scarf), to a young girl — a young Jewish girl. "No, no, I am not a Zionist", say the words of the song. The song was dedicated to the girl in memory of a past meeting in the same city several years ago, where she became an active member of the Anti-Zionist Jewish Committee.

Professor Lariviere closed the meeting with the following words: "After all you have heard and seen tonight, is it still possible to deny the cultural identity of the Palestinian people? Nevertheless, it is still necessary for us to double the number of people at such meetings as this," he added.

FINDING A WAY BACK TO GENEVA

by Our Diplomatic Correspondant

The results produced so far by President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem last November, far from furthering a just peace in the Middle East, have rendered the whole situation even more complicated than before.

Despite the starry-eyed predictions of Western news media that Mr. Sadat's "historic peace initiative" marked the dawn of a new era, it has not in anyway facilitated the search for peace. On the contrary, it has divided the Arab World and encouraged the Israeli government to follow the Nazi precept which led to the 1938 Munich Agreement: if your adversary is prepared to make concessions, take a harder line and extract even more concessions.

The region is thus faced with the prospect that the whole process of searching for a political settlement may have been set back by President Sadat's unilateral approach. Those Arab quarters that call for a negotiated settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict cannot do so credibly if the Arab World is split. Whether a united Arab World is capable, diplomatically, of exerting enough pressure to secure the restoration of the territories seized in 1967 and Zionist acceptance of the Palestinian right to statehood, is debatable. But certainly an Arab World that is as seriously divided as it is now, owing to the Sadat initiative, does not have such bargaining power.

All this has led some circles to consider alternative ways of dealing with the conflict, including



The move that divided the Arab Nation.

a return to the idea of reconvening the Geneva conference. This, however, is by no means a simple matter, since a number of steps will need to be taken first in order to undo the many negative effects of the Sadat initiative.

Saudi Diplomatic Action

Saudi Arabia has accordingly launched a new diplomatic initiative aimed at reconvening the Geneva conference through a series of gradual steps.

The first step necessary, according to the Saudi plan, is to effect a reconciliation between President Sadat and the Arab governments opposed to his policy of direct negotiations, in order for the Arab side to present a united face at Geneva. This would appear to require, at least, a declaration by Mr. Sadat that he is abandoning his initiative, if not an admission that it was a mistake. So far, he has given no indication that he will do this.

The Saudi initiative aims next at bringing about the closest possible co-ordination between Syria, Jordan and Egypt. To this end, Saudi diplomacy is working to arrange a mini-summit to be attended by Presidents Assad and Sadat, King Hussein and King Khalid. The holding of such a summit (tentatively planned for Riyadh) would of course be conditional on the success of efforts to reconcile Mr. Sadat with other Arab leaders, and specifically with President Assad.

If all these moves bear fruit, the next step would be to call a preliminary meeting in New York under United Nations auspices, with the aim of preparing for the Geneva conference. This suggestion was put forward earlier by Dr. Waldheim late last year, but was rejected at that time by the Israelis.

Diplomatic Pressures

Saudi policy-makers are hoping to muster enough diplomatic pressure, from the United States in particular, to persuade the Israelis to drop their objection to a UN-sponsored pre-Geneva meeting. In this context, Riyadh is linking the success of its initiative to reconvene the Geneva conference to oil price stability. That is, it has informed Washington that it will oppose any oil price increase before mid-1979, in return for US backing for the new Saudi initiative.

As far as the Sadat initiative is concerned, Saudi Arabia, while

never actively opposing or denouncing it, has had reservations about it all along. This is because the Kingdom's aim is to see an overall, comprehensive Arab-Israeli settlement that will stabilise the whole region, not a separate Israeli deal with Egypt that will leave the rest of the Arab countries even more vulnerable to Israeli attack. Saudi Arabia is now understood to be urging Mr. Sadat to give his initiative no longer than the end of July at the latest, and to agree to the Geneva approach if by then his methods have produced no major success.

Carter Plan for West Bank

In the meantime, President Carter is pressing ahead with his plans for an autonomous Palestinian Bantustan or "homeland" in the West Bank. The Carter plan envisages a five-year interim period of civil autonomy there, with a continued Israeli military presence. After this, it is not yet clear whether Mr. Carter intends the Bantustan to be under Israeli or Jordanian sovereignty, or possibly a joint Jordanian-Israeli condominium.

One point that has now emerged clearly is that the Carter plan intends the frontier of the West Bank autonomous region to be patrolled by United Nations troops. The purpose of these troops, quite simply, would be to prevent resistance operations by Palestinians or, in Washington terminology, "to safeguard Israel's security".

The U.S. government, it is now clear, regards the presence of U.N. troops in South Lebanon as a "dress rehearsal" for their future West Bank role. In other words, the United States sees the South Lebanon situation as an ideal opportunity to test the U.N. forces' ability to "keep the peace" between Palestinians and Israelis. The degree of success the UN forces achieve in the South will give an indication of the numbers that will be needed to guard the

Israeli borders with a future Palestinian entity, under the Carter plan.

The idea of stationing U.N. forces in South Lebanon was raised before the Israeli invasion of the South in March this year, in a discussion between the US Ambassador in Beirut, Richard Parker, and Lebanese Foreign Minister Fuad Butros. The Lebanese government at that time indicated that it had no objection in principle to the concept, although it did not officially request U.N. troops until after the Israeli invasion.

Diplomatic circles say that President Carter at present does not feel the Gaza Strip should be administratively part of the West Bank "Palestinian homeland", but instead should be placed again under Egyptian control. The Carter plan envisages the West Bank supporting a population of some 1.5 million people, although the Zionist authorities would prefer a smaller Palestinian population and a greater degree of Zionist settlement. These are among the subjects of questions submitted recently by the Carter administration to the Israeli authorities, regarding the future of the occupied territories.

If the Israelis respond to these "questions" positively, diplomatic sources say, then President Carter will send either Secretary of State Vance or his assistant, Alfred Atherton, to visit a number of Middle East countries, to finalise certain details. Once all these arrangements have been settled, Mr. Carter intends to announce his "Palestinian homeland" plan — which will fall a long way short of the rights to self-determination and statehood that are recognised for all nations under international law. Why the Palestinian people, alone of all the peoples of the world, should be denied this universally acknowledged birth-right is something that Mr. Carter has never explained.

SOLIDARITY NEWS



"War criminal Dayan, No welcome," say the Norwegian people.

DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST DAYAN'S VISIT TO NORWAY

In the last issue of 'Palestine' we publicized some of the demonstrations staged by the supporters of the Palestinian people, in the U.S. and some European countries, against the visits of Zionist Prime Minister Begin, and Foreign Minister Dayan, to these countries, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the usurpation of Palestine and the establishment of the state of 'Israel'. Last week 'Palestine' received the following report on the visit of Moshe Dayan to Norway, and the reaction of the Norwegian people to his visit.

On May 9, the two major solidarity groups in Norway, the Palestine Front, and the Palestine Committee, called upon the Norwegian masses to demonstrate against the Zionist Foreign Minister's visit there, and to support the just cause of the Palestinian people. A rally was held at the

University of Oslo, during which speeches were made calling for the Norwegian government to recognize the PLO, and support the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

After the rally, the demonstrators toured the main streets of Oslo, before proceeding to the Parliament where Dayan was meeting with members of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee. There they shouted slogans, such as: "War criminal Dayan, No welcome", "Support the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples," "Israel and South Africa: two faces of the same coin", and "Zionism = Racism."

The demonstration then proceeded to the Zionist embassy in Oslo, where the participants expressed their anti-Zionist feelings and beliefs. They condemned Zionist practices against the Palestinian people, called for the withdrawal of Zionist forces from all occupied Arab territories, and the implementation of the Palestinian people's rights to return and



establish their own independent state.

The demonstration lasted for three hours and was the largest anti-Zionist demonstration that Norway has ever witnessed. Along with other demonstrations in the western world, this demonstration was another slap in the face of Dayan and the whole of the Zionist entity for its refusal to recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. As well, it was an expression of the failure of

Begin and Dayan, in their attempts to find a way out of the political isolation in which the Zionist entity is increasingly finding itself. No less important is the fact that the west's unconditional support for the Zionist state is at an end, for the western masses have begun to see the falaciousness of the Zionist allegations that the Palestine problem is merely one of refugees which can be settled with the neighbouring Arab countries.

WALDHEIM DEMANDS INDEPENDENCE AND SELF DETERMINATION FOR PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

UN Secretary General, Dr. Kurt Waldheim called for granting independence and full assistance to the Palestinians under occupation. In a report released at the United Nations, Waldheim appealed to the international community to pursue its efforts to meet the social and economic needs of the Palestinian people and to ameliorate their conditions.

Waldheim, who was speaking before a Security Council session devoted to the Middle East question, stressed the urgent necessity of achieving a stable settlement to the Middle East conflict, and called on Israel to withdraw its troops from occupied Arab territories, terminate its illegal occupation, and implement the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNS ISRAELI VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

In a communiqué issued in Paris recently, the French branch of Amnesty International condemned the procedure of administrative detention practiced by the Zionist authorities against Palestinian citizens in occupied Palestine.

Commenting on this communiqué, the French newspaper *Le Monde* said that Amnesty International is drawing the attention

of world public opinion to the Palestinian people living in Israel, who are deprived of freedom, and of their basic rights, such as the right to be convicted or released, and who are victims of beastly torture and humiliation.

Le Monde went on to say that Amnesty International's communiqué revealed that the number of Palestinian citizens in jail is huge and published the name of some administrative detainees who were arrested for no reason and are jailed without trial. Among these are; Ibrahim 'Ata Hussein Abeero, Suleiman Abu Jalileh, Abdel Rahman Al-Iraqi, Fawzi Halabieh, Tayseer Muhammad Fatwa, Abdel Hafeez Zaidan, Maisar Abu Ammadujeh, Sarhan Abu Al-Haija, Munzer Mahmoud Diab, Abi Awad Al-Jamal, Maher Al-Khayyat, Mohammad Abdel Salam, Moussa Zaki Yassin, Hani Fuad and Wassim Zorba.

SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY: A PRO-PALESTINIAN STAND

At the conclusion of its annual congress on June 8, the youth organization of the Social Democratic Party of Sweden issued a statement calling for the establishment of a secular and democratic state in all of Palestine, where Jews, Christians, and Muslims may live with equal rights and obligations, without regard to race, colour, language or religion.

The statement attracted sharp protests from the Zionist ambassador in Stockholm, as well as from pro-Zionists there.

Mr. Olaf Palme, former Prime Minister, and Secretary General of the Social Democratic party, in an effort to calm down the pro-Zionists, said that although he believes that this is the only solution to the conflict, it should not necessarily take place overnight.

Compared to the position of other Social Democratic parties within the framework of the 'Socialist International', the posi-

tion of the Swedish Social Democratic Party has moved a step forward towards the recognition of the national, historic, and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, and the acceptance of the democratic secular state slogan.

NAAA FILES LAWSUIT SEEKING EMBARGO OF US ARMS DELIVERIES TO ISRAEL

The National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA) circulated a statement in the USA recently, in which it said: "on May 11th 1978, NAAA filed a lawsuit in Federal Court in the district of Columbia seeking an embargo on future United States sales or deliveries of weapons to Israel as a result of that country's invasion of Lebanon last March."

The statement added that "the law which authorized the US to furnish arms to Israel and other countries friendly to the USA provides that a recipient country ceases to be eligible for further arms if the country uses US supplied weapons for aggressive purposes."

It added: "The NAAA believes that the massive Israeli invasion of Lebanon is not a permissible use of American weapons under American law, and that Israeli use of anti-personnel cluster bombs against civilian targets in Lebanon was only the most egregious violation of the law." The statement concluded: "Accordingly, NAAA is seeking to enforce the law by obtaining a ban on further arms deliveries to Israel."

"PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS MEETING IN WASHINGTON D.C.

Over 200 people from across the USA attended a two day conference in Washington D.C. on "Palestinian Human rights and peace" recently. In the main addresses by Israeli attorney Felicia Langer, Princeton university

professor Richard Falk, and Dr. Alan George of the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding, two themes emerged; the centrality of Palestinian self-determination to peace in the Middle East, and the urgency of denouncing Israeli violations of human and national rights of Palestinians.

These themes were further developed in workshops on U.S. policy, Israeli settlements, and political prisoners and torture. The conference, sponsored by the Palestinian Human Rights Campaign, concluded with the setting up of working groups in ten different cities and with the sending of a telegram condemning the recent denial of work permits to seven teachers at Bir Zeit college who had signed a letter protesting Israeli repression of educational institutions in the West Bank.

Attorney Felicia Langer, speaking to the conference, attacked Israeli leaders for "measuring their safety by chains and corpses." She cited case after case of Palestinians detained without trial and tortured for offenses such as "participating in a demonstration, spreading a leaflet, writing a slogan, raising a Palestinian flag, granting asylum to a son, a daughter, a brother." Langer affirmed that "the Palestinians have their rights as human beings, as a people. They will not give them up; they have paid for them with a sea of blood, and they are ready to sacrifice more until they are recognized. In our era, the policy of expansion at the expense of other peoples is condemned to die. The day it dies will be one of the happiest days for all the peoples in the Middle East, so thirsty for peace. Blessed are those who by their struggle are bringing near this promised day."

PALESTINE DAY RALLY IN NEW DELHI

A popular rally was held in New Delhi on May 29, to celebrate "Palestine Day". During the rally which was attended by ambassadors of Arab and socialist states, by delegates of Indian progressive parties, and by government officials, the PLO delegate thanked all those attending the rally and affirmed the Revolution's determination to hold firmly to its rifle in order to foil all imperialist and Zionist conspiracies aimed at liquidating the political rights of the Palestinian people. Two Indian members of Parliament also addressed the rally, reaffirming India's support for the Palestinian people, stressing the necessity of establishing an independent Palestinian state, and lauding the steadfastness of Palestinian and Lebanese fighters in South Lebanon.

ALBANIAN WOMEN SUPPORT PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

In a cable to Yasser Arafat, the 8th Congress of the Albanian Women's Union expressed its strong support for the Palestinian people. The Albanian women expressed solidarity with the liberation war of the Palestinian people who, they said, must be granted recognition of all their national rights, and be allowed to live free and independent in the homeland which cannot be denied them.

UN PROJECT TO SUPPORT ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

The UN Center for Social Welfare and Humanitarian Affairs asserted to the Economic Committee for West Asia, that the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories constitutes the most dangerous obstacle in the way of stability and development in the region. In a proposal it submitted on June 1, to the regional congress of Arab Women held in Amman, the Center stressed that the liberation of the land and the national

rights of the Palestinian people are the central problem in this region. It finally called for supporting academic institutions in the occupied territories, financially and scientifically, so as to enable them to confront the Israeli policy of discouraging the development of education in the Arab areas under their control.

ARAB WOMEN'S CONGRESS CABLES WALDHEIM

In a cable to UN Secretary-General Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the regional congress for the Arab Woman, which wound up its meetings in Amman on June 4, called for liberating Palestinian women detained in Israeli jails. In a second cable, it drew Waldheim's attention to the appalling conditions of Palestinian and Lebanese children living under Israeli occupation.

The congress of Arab women opened its meetings on May 30, attended by representatives of 14 Arab states who discussed the woman's role in national development.

AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION DEMANDS COMPLETE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED ARAB LAND

In a communiqué released in Havana on June 6, the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization demanded Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon and from all occupied Arab territories. The Organization moreover expressed its firm belief in the ultimate victory of the Arab people and in the Palestinian people's right to sovereignty and self-determination. The Organization then called on all progressive forces in the world to support the Arab peoples' struggle for their basic rights and interests and for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Lastly the communiqué condemned the US administration's policy of provoking conflicts in the Middle East region.



WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY CONDEMNS ISRAEL

On May 23, 1978, the Thirty-first World Health Assembly discussed the question of the "Health Conditions of the Arab Population in the Occupied Arab Territories, including Palestine."

The Assembly noted that the "health of all people is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security," and that it had a particular responsibility to ensure the health of "those peoples suffering from exceptional situations, especially foreign occupation and settler colonialism."

The Assembly was convinced that "the occupation of territories by force gravely affects the health, social, psychological, mental, and physical condition of the population under occupation, and that this can only be rectified by the complete termination of the occupation."

It was decided that the World Health Organization should "exert all efforts in order to improve the health of the Arabs of the occupied territories, including Palestine."

Finally the Assembly passed a series of expressions and condemnations of Israeli practices in the occupied territories;

"The World Health Assembly:—

"1. Expresses its deep concern at the poor health and psychological conditions suffered by the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories;

"2. Condemns the inhuman practices to which Arab prisoners and detainees are subjected in Israeli prisons, resulting in the deterioration of their health, psychological and mental conditions;

"3. Condemns Israel for its refusal to implement World Health Assembly resolutions calling upon it to allow refugees and displaced persons to return to their homes;

"4. Condemns Israel for its refusal to apply

the Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949;

"5. Calls upon Israel to desist forthwith from the establishment of settlements in the occupied Arab territories and from requisitioning and confiscating Arab lands for the establishment of these settlements, as the establishment of these settlements deprives the inhabitants of the occupied territories of their rights to their land and property and the enjoyment of their natural resources, thereby affecting the health, psychological and social conditions of those inhabitants;

"6. Considers that the persistence of Israeli occupying authorities in their arbitrary practices affecting the physical, social and psychological health conditions of the Arab inhabitants, changing the structure of the occupied Arab territories is a matter that necessitates Member States to consider the application of the measures stipulated in the Constitution of the World Health Organization;

"Denouncing the military Order 745, of 4 January 1978, issued by the Israeli Military Commander of the West Bank Zone, concerning the practising and the licensing of medical and health professions in the West Bank of the occupied Arab territories, thus further changing the legal structure of the institutions of the occupied territories, in particular:

"(a) granting, withholding or withdrawing licenses, contrary to existing and accepted professional rules;

"(b) forcing the migration of Arab medical and health personnel, and imposing restrictive conditions on the inhabitants as regards the practice of the medical and health professions;

"Calls upon Israel to desist forthwith from changing the legal status of medical and health professions in the occupied Arab territories, and to immediately nullify the aforementioned military Order and any other similar orders."

MARTA

By Mahmoud Labadi

Marta was an old woman, who lived alone and was a stranger to the village. Nobody knew if she had a child or a husband or if she belonged to any of the families in the village. It was as if she were from a different world. Her short dress, which she seldom changed, was different from the long embroidered dresses of the village women. Her accent and her conversation were strange. She used to sit with the women at the doors of their houses, as was the village women's custom when they gossiped, about Fatima who had got married, or Aisha who had a baby. She would listen to them without taking part in their conversation, as if she was wandering in her own private world. Usually, Marta would sit with the village women when they gathered on the doorstep of one of the houses to sort out lentils or crushed wheat, her head bowed over the dish as she sorted out the pebbles from the grains, listening to the conversation without uttering a word.

During the olive-picking season, when the village was filled with activity and vitality, Marta used to help Abu Hasan's household in picking olives in order to earn a meagre wage. She would often go from one house to another in the village, carrying a white calico bag, begging a few olives from those who were accustomed to set aside a little of their harvest for her to sell, so as to enable her to buy some clothes to help her face the cold of the coming winter.

Marta aroused the curiosity of the children in the village, who used to crowd around her and follow her, repeating her strange name, 'Marta, Marta', the only name of its kind in the village. The children used to tease her, grabbing the hem of her short dress which reached to below her knee, unlike the village women's long dresses which almost brushed

along the untarred streets of the village. Marta was not annoyed at the children's playfulness, but would look at them with eyes filled with love and murmur some incomprehensible words in her city accent. If she did become aggravated, her eyes would brim over with tears, and as soon as the children saw this they would stop following her and bothering her.

Thus the years went by. The children grew older and became youths, and most of them went to the secondary school in the city. Marta remained with the village women, sitting with them on the doorsteps of houses, sorting out lentils or other crops, and listening to their usual conversations. As is normal with village women, they would speak with pride and pleasure about their sons who had become young men and were being educated in the city. Each one would speak of her son who would become a doctor, an engineer, or an officer. Marta would listen attentively to the news of the students and the talk of their future, although she had nothing to talk about. She paid particular attention to news about Hasan and would ask about him from time to time, since she was especially fond of him, although he used to tease her a lot during his childhood when he played in the streets of the village.

Hasan had entered a secondary school in the town of Jenin. He had rented a room in the town with one of his friends. Now he only came to visit his family once a month, in order to save his family the cost of the journey and spare himself the bother of travelling, particularly in winter. Hasan was an intelligent student who was doing well at his studies, in addition to being a star in the school sports team. Every time he visited the village, Marta would go to his father's house to see Hasan and sit on the bench in the house to listen to him describing



life in the town and his progress at school. Very rarely, she would pluck up courage to ask him a shy question to clarify some point or other, and she would keep her gaze fixed on him, following all his movements, his vitality, and his words with full attentiveness.

One time when Hasan came to visit his family in the village, Marta did not come as usual to visit him. He heard that she was ill in bed, in her room in Abu Ali's house where she always lived. Hasan was surprised to hear this and did not believe it at first. He thought for a long time about this poor, lonely woman. He felt as if he were reviewing a film of his childhood, with the scenes of children following this good woman. When his mother asked him to go and visit her, he hesitated a great deal. Why should he go? What bound him to her? When his mother told him that Marta had asked about him and wanted to see him, a strange feeling swept over him, as if there were nothing to draw him to her. But he knew only very little about her. A long time ago he had heard his mother say that Marta was from Haifa and had taken refuge in the village during the Exodus in 1948. He was overcome by curiosity and wanted to know more about her secret. He began wondering, deep in his heart, about this unfortunate, woman and what had compelled her to live such a wretched, isolated life in this strange village.

After a long hesitation, Hasan pulled himself together and went to visit Marta. He found her confined to bed, suffering from a high temperature and her strength drained away by illness. When she saw him, her face brightened and she rose to hug him. But her strength failed her and her eyes became flooded with tears. Without her asking him, Hasan began talking to her about the town, the school and his friends.

Hasan had read in her tear-drenched eyes all her many questions and told her at length about his plans and his future. Hasan had decided to become an officer in the armed forces, to defend his country against the invaders and alien colonisers, although Marta had wanted him to become a famous doctor in the city.

When he returned home, Hasan felt at peace, but increasingly curious to find out the story of this unfortunate woman. On arriving at his house, he asked his mother about Marta and her secret. His mother told him the story of Marta, which was known only to very few of the people of the village: "Seventeen years ago, before the Exodus, Marta had been living with her husband Yakoub in Haifa. Yakoub used to make sweets at home and place them in a tray which he would carry on his head, and go to the centre of the city to sell them in the market. They had a child who would have been almost the same age as you. They called him Hasan and he was their only child. It happened that Zionist bands attacked the quarter where they were living in Haifa, and a shell landed on their house and destroyed it, killing Yakoub and his son who, then, was less than six years old. Marta was left alone to the vicissitudes of fate, enduring anguish, loneliness and destitution. In Haifa, Marta had got to know Abu Ali and his family, who lived in the same quarter where she and her husband lived before the war.

"When life became unbearable in Haifa and the Zionists completed their occupation of the city, Marta left with Abu Ali's family to find refuge in this village, leaving her husband Yakoub and her son Hasan behind her, to live on her sorrows and her memories of the past, without hope for the future."

VICTORY TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

パレスチナ写真展

民族の悲劇・祖国への道
—ヒロシマ・パレスチナ—

踏みにじられた希望の中から
盗まれた微笑の中から
子どもたちは微笑する
破壊と苦悶の中から
血の混じりついた壁の中から
生命は、まっとう生きてくる
ファトマ・ドゥカ

●日時 8月3日～5日 午前10時午後8時 ●会場 広島・恵愛センター(5階ホール) ●主催 ノル
チナ解放機構(PLO)東京事務所 ●協賛 中央各界諸団体 広島県各諸団体 ●協力 朝日新聞社 共

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ISRAELI ATROCITIES
IN JERUSALEM