



**... AND THE STRUGGLE
GOES ON**

**P.L.O.
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bulletin**

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Palestine

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P.N.C.:

**PROGRAM
OF
NATIONAL
UNITY**



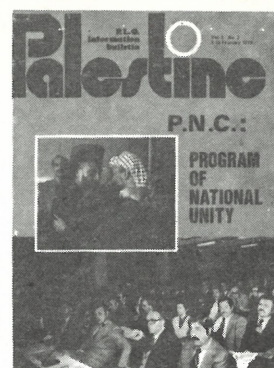
TO OUR READERS....

Solidarity is an important weapon in helping the oppressed peoples of the world win their struggles. Solidarity with the Palestinian people is an indispensable factor for the continuity of our just struggle and just cause. We are very grateful for the solidarity and support of all the honourable peoples of the world with the Palestinian cause. We have many friends all over the world, but our enemies are still strong and fierce. They have better weapons and equipment, their means are limitless.

The forces of liberation, on the other hand, possess limited means and equipment, but they have unlimited determination and will of continuous sacrifice for their just causes. However, we are the emerging forces and the forces of aggression are the declining ones. The future belongs to us for they have already had the past.

We thank all our friends all over the world for the letters of support and encouragement which you have sent to us.

We hope to continue on the road to victory.



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EDITORIAL

P.N.C.: PROGRAM OF NATIONAL UNITY

The Palestinian National Congress held its fourteenth session in Damascus on January 15, 1979. This session, which was named after the late Algerian President Houari Boumedienne, consolidated Palestinian national unity between the different organizations.

The Political Program approved in this session stressed the basic principles of the PLO. It stressed the role of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories. Furthermore, it stressed the attachment of the PLO to previous resolutions: to establish an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian national soil without preconditions. The P.N.C. reiterated its refusal of UN Security Council resolution 242 and approved UN General Assembly resolutions 3236 and 3237 adopted in 1974. It rejected Sadat's "initiative" and the Camp David agreement and its results in terms of the Palestinian cause, namely the "self-rule" project for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. On the other hand, the PLO pledged to step up armed resistance inside the occupied territories against the Zionist occupation and expansion.

The 14th session of the P.N.C. attracted Arab and international attention, and was attended by many Arab and international delegations mainly from the Socialist countries. Archbishop Capucci, the exiled Archbishop of Jerusalem, who spent more than three years in an Israeli jail and finally was exiled to Brazil, came unexpectedly to the Congress and delivered an enthusiastic speech. Monsignor Capucci, who at the beginning was accepted unanimously by the Congress as an honorary member, was received by the delegates as an hero. In his emotional speech, he vowed to remain attached to Jerusalem and to his Roman Catholic communion till the liberation of Jerusalem.

The speeches of the delegates concentrated their statements and analyses on the events of Iran and the overthrow of the despotic Shah's regime as a milestone and turning point in Middle East developments. They praised the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and the Baghdad Summit Conference, which contributed to the isolation of Sadat and delayed the signature of a separate "peace" treaty with Israel.

The dialogue with Jordan was approved after a long discussion between pros and cons, on condition that King Hussein abides by the Rabat, Algiers and Baghdad Summits' resolutions recognizing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In its efforts to unify the Palestinian organizations, the P.N.C. approved the unification of institutions such as the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, the Martyrs Institution and others. Unified institutions which provide facilities to all organizations and affiliations should be financed from the central PLO budget.

The PLO Executive Committee was approved once again by the P.N.C. and was asked to shoulder its responsibilities till the next session.

Taking into consideration all the developments in the region from Iran to Egypt, the 14th session of the P.N.C. consolidated Palestinian national unity in order to shoulder its responsibilities in this critical period. It can be stated that the rejection front was implicitly dissolved, since there are no U.S. political settlements in which Palestinians can become involved. It is becoming more and more evident that the PLO is not included in U.S. settlement schemes for the region.

PALESTINE NOTES



Inauguration of new Chatila Kindergarten on Martyr's Day



Chairman Arafat inspecting positions in South Lebanon

TECHNICAL CADRES GRADUATED, NEW KINDERGARTENS OPENED

Chairman Yasser Arafat, on 8 January 1979, attended a graduation ceremony for a technical course for mechanics, electricians and drivers in the Fateh Central workshops, at which he distributed certificates to the graduates.

On 11 January 1979, Chairman Arafat inaugurated two new kindergartens in the Chatila and Sabra camps, and new centres for typing and sewing in Chatila.

At the 'Martyr Muhammad Heshma' kindergarten in Chatila, Arafat made a speech in which he said that this was not just an ordinary school or kindergarten, but the making of a future. He added that the Palestinian people have become a reality in the Middle East which no one can by-pass or ignore, and they challenged Carter, Begin and Sadat to impose any settlement in the region which ignores the Palestinian people's rights.

ARAFAT CONGRATULATES CUBAN PEOPLE

Chairman Yasser Arafat sent a cable of congratulations to Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro on January 10 on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution, wishing the Cuban people and all militant peoples in the world further progress.

Arafat added: "In the name of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, I reaffirm that our militant steadfast people will remain faithful to the principles and aims of the struggle for liberation and against imperialism, Zionism and their

PLO DELEGATION MEETS SAUDI CROWN PRINCE FAHD

Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and General Commander of the forces of the Palestinian Revolution, on 14 January 1979, met with Saudi Crown Prince Fahd Ibn Abdel Aziz. During the meeting, which was also attended by Rashad Pharon, King Khaled's advisor and Hani al Hassan and Rafiq al-Natche, who accompanied Arafat, discussions centred on current problems and events in the region, and on Arab and international developments.

The meeting was described as positive, fruitful, and successful. Chairman Arafat left Riyadh after the brief visit, and returned to the Syrian capital to attend the meetings of the Palestinian National Congress.



Chairman Arafat meeting Saudi Crown Prince Fahd

agents in the Middle East." He then expressed confidence that the Palestinian people will realize victory thanks to the solidarity and support they receive from their friends, including the Cuban people and government.

UNRWA CONFLICT FROZEN

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) has agreed to continue providing full rations to its dependents for at least three months. This follows a wave of wide-spread protests and strikes against plans to reduce UNRWA school services.

The agency announced last year it would have to reduce some supplies because of a multi-million dollar budget deficit.

Abdul-Mohsen Abu Maizar, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, said the accord had been reached during talks he had with UNRWA Director Peter McElhiney in Damascus.

RALLY IN SOLIDARITY WITH EGYPTIAN PEOPLE AND LEBANESE ARAB ARMY

A popular rally was held on 21 January in the Beirut Arab University in solidarity with the struggle of the Egyptian people on the anniversary of the January 1977 uprising, and in solidarity with the Lebanese Arab Army on its 3rd anniversary. During the rally, Chairman Arafat's speech was read by the Deputy-Director of the "Voice of Palestine", since Arafat was attending the meetings of the Palestinian National Congress.

Arafat said that the January 1977 uprising had emphasized Egypt's real place in the vanguard of Arab struggle, and proved to the world that the Egyptian people wage an on-going battle against imperialism, Zionism and those who follow in their steps.

Addressing the Lebanese Arab Army, Arafat praised their steadfastness in Arnoun, Beaufort Castle, Yahmor, and Aishiya, and saluted the martyrs who died in defence of South Lebanon. He then recalled that Beaufort Castle, which they are defending, was one of three fortresses from which Saladin's troops launched their battles to liberate Jerusalem and Palestine.

PALESTINE NOTES

ARAFAT MEETS WITH SEKOU TOURE IN DAMASCUS

Chairman Arafat, met with Guinean President Ahmad Sekou Touré in Damascus on January 22. During the meeting, discussions centered on Palestinian-Guinean relations, on the situation in the Middle East and Africa, as well as on Guinea's firm stand in support of Palestinian national rights.

President Sekou Toure also officially invited Yasser Arafat to visit Guinea, and the two leaders agreed to hold a second meeting there.

ARAFAT AND ABU JIHAD INSPECT ATTACKED POSITIONS

On 19 January 1979, Chairman Arafat visited the positions which

have been under Israeli attack in South Lebanon, and spent the day assessing the repercussions.

Arafat saluted the militants who died in defence of their positions and who halted the attack, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy forces.

Abu Jihad, Fateh Central Committee member, also toured the area, and then made the following declaration:

"Yesterday and the day before, there were repeated Israeli attacks against the camps of Rashidiya and Ras al-Ain, but they failed to achieve their objectives. Tonight there were attacks on Aishiya and Beaufort Castle, and the enemy failed to achieve the victories claimed in their military communique, such as the destruction of our headquarters, and their entering the village of Aishiya."

Abu Jihad further confirmed that "these attacks will not stop operations in occupied Palestine nor hinder Palestinian struggle, but rather will increase the people's determination to achieve further victories daily."

On the timing of the aggression, Abu Jihad said that it was meant to coincide with the meetings of the Palestinian National Congress and with efforts to achieve national unity.

ARAFAT SENDS MESSAGE TO KHOMEINI

Chairman Arafat sent a message to the Iranian leader, the Imam Ayatollah Khomeini, which was delivered by a personal envoy of Arafat on January 26. In his message Arafat said:

"The just cause of the people of Iran and its great Revolution were the subject of great attention during the last Palestinian National Congress, because we consider it our cause and our Revolution. The Congress discussed the situation in Iran and the Iranian people's Revolution and confirmed its support for the militant Iranian people under your firm and wise leadership. The Congress also salutes your firm stand with the Palestinian Revolution and the struggle of our people against the Zionist enemy, and wishes your people total victory in the alleviation of injustice, to enable your people to join the ranks of struggle against imperialism and Zionism for the liberation of Palestine and Jerusalem, and to dedicate Iran's potentials to the same struggle."



Object of brutal Zionist terror



Ali Hassan Salameh ("Abu Hassan")

NEW ESCALATION OF ZIONIST TERROR

Ten people, among them Ali Hassan Salameh, a high-ranking PLO security official, were killed, and many other wounded when Israeli secret service agents detonated a car packed with remote-controlled explosive charges in a busy West Beirut street on 23 January 1979 at 3.50 p.m. Most of the victims were Lebanese and other civilian passers-by, among them a British woman secretary and an American nun.

This act of most brutal terror occurred at the same time when Israel was relentlessly bombarding southern Lebanon killing mostly Lebanese civilians, and Israeli War minister Ezer Weizman openly announced Israel would use its superior fire power to attack civilian concentrations in Lebanon, unless the PLO stopped Palestinian armed resistance in occupied Palestine.

Systematically, under the cover

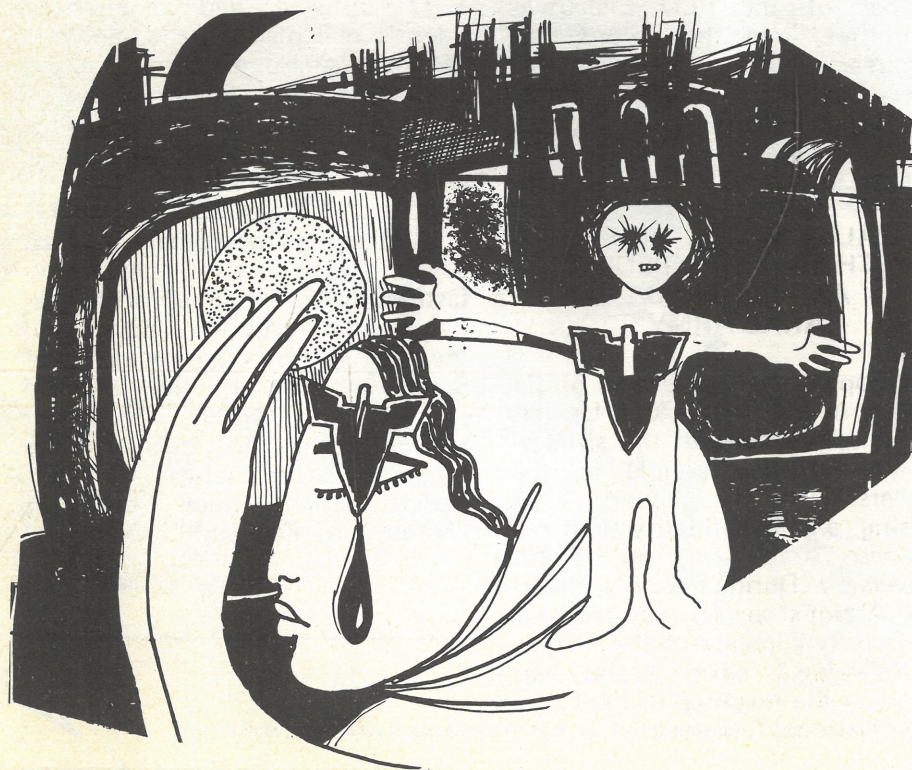
of the "peace" farce of Camp David, and backed by the US "peace" makers, Israel is stepping up its campaign to terrorize the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories, to annihilate the PLO and its leadership, and also to destabilize Lebanon and depopulate its southern part, in order to spread Zionist aggression, terror and occupation deeper into the Arab world.

Zionist media have openly acknowledged responsibility for the blood-bath in Beirut, cynically labelling the Palestinian victims of 30 years of unremitting Zionist aggression as "the terrorists". The Israeli newspaper "Maariv", on 23 January 1979, commented on the murder in Beirut: "This is a warning demonstrating that Israel knows exactly where it can hit them and that it has the means to do so." Meanwhile, a Lebanese-Palestinian commission investigating the terror act, established that agents of the

Israeli "Mossad", using false British and Canadian passports, entered the country shortly before the attack and rented the car in which the explosive charge was packed.

A MILITANT LEADER LIKE HIS MARTYRED FATHER

When announcing the martyrdom of the militant leader Ali Hassan Salameh (Abu Hassan), the Fateh Central Committee also reminded the world of the fate of his father, Shaykh Hassan Salameh, who heroically led Palestinian national resistance against the Zionist settlers in the late 1940ies, and was, himself, killed by a Zionist bomb attack. At the same time Fateh pledged to continue the road of struggle, guided by all martyrs who died holding high the banner of the resistance against Zionist aggression and terror.





Tens of thousands of demonstrators at the funeral



TENS OF THOUSANDS DEMONSTRATE

Tens of thousands of Palestinians and Lebanese participated in the funeral march for Ali Hassan Salameh and his escorts as it went through Beirut. The majority of shops in West Beirut closed, while students stopped classes and the streets were emptied. The solemn march included leaders of all factions and institutions of the Palestinian Resistance, leaders of the

Lebanese National Movement, a large number of Arab diplomats, and symbolic units from the Arab Deterrent Forces.

At the Martyrs' cemetery in Sabra, Chairman Yasser Arafat delivered an eulogy, in which he said: "they thought that the assassination of Ghassan Kanafani, Kamal Adwan, Kamal Nasser, Abu Yusuf al-Najjar, Abu Ali Iyyad, and Abd al-Fattah Hammoud would halt the revolutionary march; and now they think that the assassination of this hero and his comrades will stop the Revolution.

"But before the leaders of the Lebanese National Movement, the National Front and the various Palestinian factions, I inform Begin, whose special terrorist group has assassinated Ali Hassan Salameh, that even while the fascists are intensifying their shelling of the city of Tyre, Nabatiya and their surroundings, our will will not submit, nor will we.

"Together with militants every-

where, in Nicaragua, and in Iran, and with Imam Khomeiny, we will continue on our road until victory."

VISITS AND MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE

Numerous personalities and delegations paid visits to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, and many messages were sent to offer condolences on the martyrdom of Abu Hassan and to express solidarity with the PLO. Among the many visitors were Lebanese Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Hoss, the Minister of the Interior Dr. Salah Salman, a number of Lebanese deputies and various other Lebanese personalities; Syrian Minister of State Dr. Adib Milhem, who came on behalf of Syrian President Assad; Walid Jumblatt and other leaders of the Lebanese National Movement, representatives of the Lebanese Army; the leadership of the Lebanese Arab Army; the Saudi Arabian, Kuwaiti, Algerian, Libyan, Tunisian, Bahraini



Palestinian and Lebanese leaders commemorating the militant; from left to right: Abu Iyad, Nicola Shawi (Lebanese Communist Party), Abu Lutf, Yasser Arafat (with son of late Abu Hassan), Abu Saleh, Abu Jihad

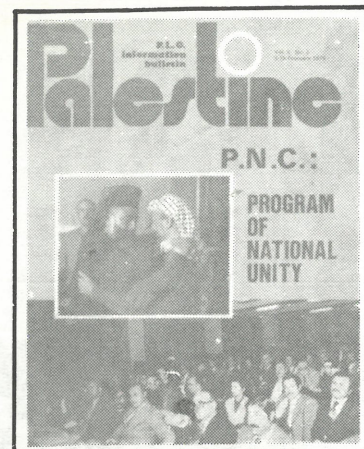
Ambassadors; the Ambassadors of the Soviet Union, Cuba, the German Democratic Republic and Hungary; the leaders of the various factions of the Palestinian Resistance; delegations from popular committees of Palestinian refugee camps and various Palestinian committees, and the heads of Palestinian institutions.

Among the flood of cables addressed to Chairman Arafat were those sent by sixteen mayors from the occupied West Bank; numerous members of national institutions, organizations and Commerce Chambers in occupied Palestine; King Hussein of Jordan; the Kuwaiti and Tunisian foreign ministers and other Arab government officials; the Egyptian National Progressive United Party; the Ain Jallout Forces of the Palestinian Liberation Army in Egypt; the Socialist Party of Cyprus; many PLO offices and Palestinian mass organizations's branches and solidarity groups abroad.



The masses carrying the martyr's coffin

14TH PALESTINIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS



View of audience (with Algerian and Vietnamese guests in the forefront)

The 14th Palestinian National Congress was officially inaugurated on January 15, 1979, at the Meeting Hall of the General Union of Syrian Workers. The opening ceremony was attended by Syrian President Hafez al Assad, Prime Minister Muhammad Ali al-Halabi and a large number of Syrian Government and Party officials; by an Iraqi delegation headed by Tareq Aziz; and by several Arab and foreign delegations.

The ceremony began with a minute of silence for all the martyrs, followed by Khaled al Fahoum's speech in which he declared this 14th session of the Congress, the "Martyr Houari Boumedienne" session, in respect for what the late President accomplished for Algeria, for the cause of Palestine, and for all Arab causes.

Fahoum reassured the people under occupa-

tion that "the extraordinary circumstances which prevented their representatives from taking their seats in the Congress will not prevent us from solving the question of supporting their steadfastness, as a priority in our activities for their steadfastness is the major guarantee for the success of our cause."

Fahoum added that "the Egyptian-US-Israeli agreements are defeatist and unilateral, and do not represent the will of the Egyptian, Palestinian or Arab peoples. It is a separate peace in every sense of the word, a separate capitulation which consolidates the Israeli occupation of our land." He added that "they tried over the past 30 years to belittle our cause and our people, reducing it to a question of refugees, but the Revolution broke out and changed the situation, leading ultimately to the PLO's recognition by the UN."



Chairman Arafat presenting Jerusalem replica to Syrian President Assad

PRESIDENT ASSAD INAUGURATES CONGRESS

Fahoum then asked President Hafez al-Assad to inaugurate the opening of the National Congress. The Syrian President declared that since the Palestinian National Congress' first session held in 1964, the Arab nation has been facing both negative and positive events, all turning around one cause, that of Palestine, which is the main driving force of all the events and the subject of the struggle between Arab rights and the Israeli enemy. President Assad then added that peace in the area is closely linked to the national rights of the Palestinian people.

He went on to refer to Sadat's conspiracy against the Palestinian cause, describing it as a base step on the part of the Egyptian regime, which has increased the enemy's arrogance, and adding that the Egyptian concessions to Israel only reinforce its further occupation of Arab territories, the establishment of even more settlements, and its determination to consider all the occupied territories as part of the Zionist state, including the whole of Jerusalem.

The Syrian President then praised the Palesti-

nians within the occupied territories, confirming Syria's support for continued struggle, until Palestine is free and Arab once again.

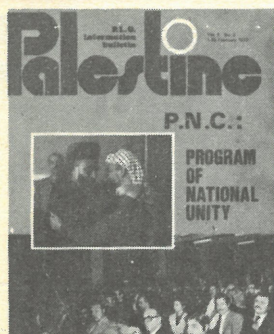
After Assad gave his speech, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat embraced the Syrian President and offered him a replica of the city of Jerusalem and the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

The conference hall was packed with around 2,000 people, including members, members of honour and foreign delegates. Also present were a large number of Arab and foreign correspondents covering the conference.

PLENARY SESSION

On January 16, the Palestinian National Congress commenced its plenary sessions attended by Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and General Commander of the Forces of the Palestinian Revolution, and Congress President Khaled al-Fahoum.

After reporting that a number of friendly bodies and groups had asked to participate in the Congress as observers, Fahoum put forth the question of membership changes, after several



Palestinian Popular groups and organizations had expressed their desire to change a number of their representatives in the Congress, as is their prerogative on condition they inform the Congress in advance.

The changes, which were approved, included several representatives of Fateh, the PFLP, the PDF, the Arab Liberation Front, the Palestinian Red Crescent and the General Unions of Palestinian Workers, Teachers, Students, Pharmacists, Engineers, and Women.

The roll was then called, and the number of those present came to 268 members, with 25 members absent, among them Usama Shanar, who is a prisoner in a Jordanian prison, and numerous West Bank and Gaza representatives prevented from taking part by the Zionist authorities.

The Palestinian National Congress called on the Jordanian Government to immediately release Usama Shanar, a member of the Congress, so that he could participate in its 14th session.

Following a suggestion made by Chairman Yasser Arafat, the Congress unanimously nominated Archbishop Hilarion Capucci as a member of honour of the Congress, rather than as an active member, due to his special position which prohibits him from returning to the Middle East after his expulsion from Jerusalem.

CABLES AND MESSAGES

The 4th meeting of the Congress, on 17 January, began with the reading of cables, messages and petitions of support sent by the various municipalities, unions and popular organisations in occupied Palestine.

The messages of congratulation received by the Congress included cables from Chinese President Hua Kuo Feng, Vietnamese Premier Phan Van Dong, the Secretary of the German Unified Socialist Party Erich Honecker and from Sri Lanka's Speaker of Parliament; from Lutfi



Cuban delegate

al-Kholi, member of the Front for Participation with the Palestinian Revolution, who had been prevented by the Egyptian authorities from attending the Congress; and from the Command of the Joint Forces resisting the Zionist aggression in South Lebanon.

After the reading of these messages, the Vietnamese delegation, the Iraqi delegation and the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Yemen, participating as guests in the Congress, took the floor.

Later a letter from Palestinian political detainees and members of the Jordanian National Movement being held at the Amman Central Prison was read. The letter called on the Congress to take a unified stand and adopt the National Unity plan put forth by the PLO Central Council. It stressed the necessity of holding on firmly to the PLO as sole legitimate representative; of resisting all liquidationary projects such as Camp David and the 'self-rule' plan; of developing the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front; of confronting attempts to foil the Baghdad Summit resolutions; of forming a National Front in occupied Palestine, and of escalating the struggle there; of stressing unity with the Lebanese National Movement and the National Front in Lebanon; of demanding the release of detainees in Jordanian prisons. Finally, it stressed the importance of ties with the USSR.

POLITICAL REPORT

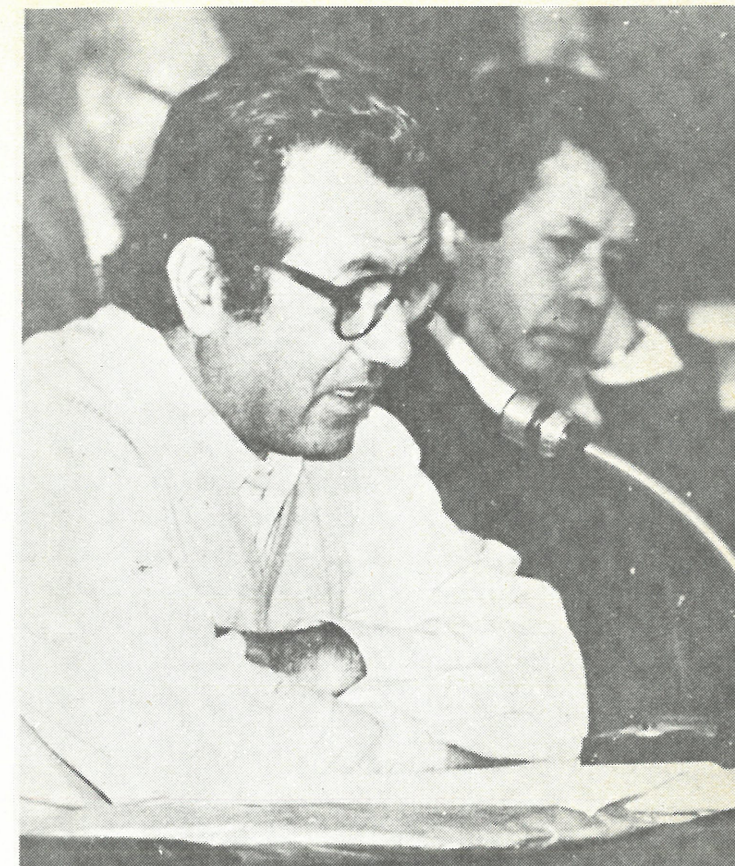
The political report of the PLO Executive Committee on the PLO's activities was then presented to the Congress by Farouk Kaddoumi (Abu Lutf), head of the PLO Political Department. The report included the political achievements and activities of the PLO, covering the period since the last congress which was held in March 1977. The report stressed the following major points:

- Condemnation of the US policy of liquidation directed against the Palestinian people, and the imperialist policy of the US in the Middle East.

- Praise for the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories against the Camp David agreements and the 'self-rule' plan, and in support of the PLO as sole representative of the Palestinian people.

- The PLO's stand with regard to Lebanon, concerning: 1) the implementation of all agreements with the Lebanese authorities, 2) the manoeuvres of the right-wing isolationists to prolong the tension in Lebanon, and 3) the unified stand of the PLO with the Lebanese National movement to foil the expansionist plans of Israel in South Lebanon.

- Praise for the Syrian-Iraqi meeting and its



Farouk Kaddoumi delivering the political report

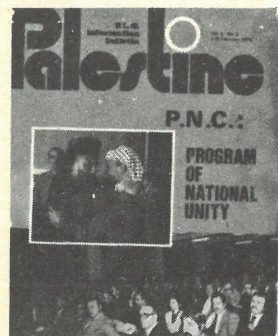
resultant National Action Charter, with references to the inevitable talks with Jordan based on Arab summit agreements and Jordan's rejection of the Camp David accords.

- Re-confirmation of the PLO's positive relations with the socialist states led by the USSR. These states have reached a high degree of coordination with the PLO, and are considered to be the main strategic allies of the Palestinian people. The report then points to developments in the European stand regarding the Palestinian cause and the PLO.

- The positive role of the group of non-aligned states and the Islamic Conference Organization.

In analysing the present situation and future eventualities, the report confirms that the U.S. will continue its strategy of building blocs in the region and elsewhere in the world. The U.S. is also continuing its policy of inciting local and internal clashes which enables it to control the key points in the world so as to protect imperialism by creating agent states and by 'Balkanizing' the whole area.

- Despite US successes in some regions of the world, the victories of the progressive peoples and forces in Angola, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, and Democratic Yemen, and the Revolution in Iran,



represents a series of failures both for US policy and for US-Israeli influence. The report prophesies more uprising in the Middle East.

FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC REPORT

In its session on 17 January 1979, Dr. Walid Qamhawi, member of the PLO Executive Committee and Chairman of the Palestinian National Fund read out the 12th financial report of the PNF to the Congress.

The first part of the report included an exposé of the Fund's responsibilities in supervising the activities of the various PLO offices and departments and checking the expenditures of the Palestinian Liberation Army.

The report also included an account of the financial support which the PLO has received from 1975 to 1977, Arab financial aid to the PLO in 1979, the sources of finance, the liberation taxation, and the donations of overseas Arab communities.

The second part of the report dealt with the National Fund's foreign activities in the financial and economic fields, in the Arab-European dialogue and in various conferences.

The report also clarified that the "Conference of the Effective Economic Forces" aims at directing the Palestinian potentials in commerce, industry and the free professions, and at organising and linking them with the PLO. It aims at enabling the PLO to aid the various Palestinian economic institutions. It also hopes to establish a Palestinian National Bank.

The report called on the Palestinian National Congress to adopt the proposal of holding a conference of Palestinian businessmen and economists.

The last part of the report, included the PLO budget for 1977-78 and 1979-80, and clarified that the PLO Executive Committee intends to set up an expanded and unified budget for

1979-80.

The report also pointed out that the PLO has issued a resolution creating a special budgetary committee which includes representatives of all the factions of the Revolution to draw out the 1979-80 budget. The report added that the Fund's administrative council has decreed the necessity of applying the slogan of unified expenditure and fund collection, as a primary step towards Palestinian unity and as a means of supervising fund raising activities.

SPEECHES AND COMMITTEES

In its evening session on 19 January, the PNC listened to a report on the situation in South Lebanon presented by Yasser Arafat, who had earlier in the day toured the positions of the Joint Forces that were the target of Israeli attacks. Arafat declared that the Israeli attack had in fact failed despite the participation of the enemy naval, airborne and land forces.

Aby Iyad, Fateh Central Committee member, made a speech in which he dealt with the issues of national unity based on democratic dialogue. He stressed the necessity of independent Palestinian decision-making to defend the Palestinian Revolution from any attempts to contain it or impose a protectorate on it. He spoke of the dialogue with Jordan based on the recognition of the Palestinian Revolution as the representative of the Palestinian people, and he also discussed the situation in South Lebanon.

Several members of the PNC delivered speeches. Among them were George Habash (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine), Abu Mazen and Hani al-Hassen (Fateh), Zuhair Muhsen (Saiqa), Yasser Abed Rabbo (Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine), Abu Ismail (Arab Liberation Front), and Tawfiq Sultan and George Hawi (Lebanese National Movement).

At the end of the session, the PNC formed six committees to prepare draft resolutions:

1. The Political and National Committee, which would also study the situation in South Lebanon, and problems of UNRWA. Delegations of the Lebanese National Movement and National Front were asked to attend meetings of this committee.
2. The Military Committee.
3. The National Unity Committee.
4. The Financial Committee.
5. The Occupied Palestine Committee.
6. The Popular Organizations and Social Committee.

Each committee was composed of at least eleven members, and elected a chairman.



Chairman Arafat with Archbishop Hilarion Capucci

ARRIVAL OF CAPUCCI

During the last sessions of the PNC, Archbishop Hilarion Capucci arrived in Damascus and was visited by Yasser Arafat, Abu Saleh and Abu Iyad, members of the Fateh Central Committee, and Inaam Raad of the Lebanese National Movement. Capucci told Arafat that "when I left occupied Palestine for Rome, I had left a small jail for a larger one, for I was forbidden to go back and forth and denied freedom of speech, as such it would be more honorable for me and for the Palestinian cause and struggle to return to jail."

At the 22 January evening session, Capucci addressed the PNC, saluting all the attendants and expressing joy at being among them spiritually and materially. He stated that he does not want to be thanked, because what he had undergone was his duty as an Arab who wished to share the sorrows and sufferings of his nation. Capucci concluded by saying: "We are on the road to Jerusalem and will certainly return to our land, homes and people, and a free Arab Jerusalem."

FINAL SESSION

At the last session of the Congress, held on 23 January, the PNC voted unanimously to re-elect the former PLO Executive Committee, whose mandate now runs until 1980.

The PNC issued a political communique as a conclusion to its week of activities, resolutions and achievements in Damascus. The communique included the major points made by the PNC's committees, a political report and a national unity program.

The PNC session distinguished itself as a congress of Palestinian national unity, and a reinforcement of the joint struggle against the common enemy. It showed the great concern not only of the Palestinians, but also of the friendly and comradely forces, for achieving national unity among the Palestinian factions in the military, information and finance fields. In this way, the Palestinians will build a strong revolutionary base for Arab and international progressive forces to coordinate with and share in the liberation struggle.

THE PROGRAM OF NATIONAL UNITY



Presenting the program of National Unity

The Palestinian National Congress, after discussing the political and organizational program presented to the Congress by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasser Arafat, unanimously approved the paper which thus becomes the Palestinian Resistance's new political program. Following is the full text of the program:

"The US settlement of the Arab-Zionist conflict, as embodied in the Camp David accords, will bring about fateful dangers on the Palestine cause and on the cause of Arab national liberation, for it allows the Zionist enemy to continue its usurpation of Palestinian national soil and cancel out the inalienable right of the Palestinian Arab people to their homeland, Palestine, and their right to return to their homeland and to exercise self-determination and national independence over their national soil. The accords also forsake other parts of the Arab territories, and by-pass the PLO, the leader of

our people's national struggle and their sole legitimate representative, speaking on their behalf and expressing their will.

"These accords also represent an act of aggression against Palestinian, Arab and international legitimacy, and pave the way for the heightening of US imperialist and Zionist domination over our Arab region and over the African states. They also make use of the Egyptian regime within the framework of its alliance with imperialism and Zionism — as a tool for the suppression of the Arab and African liberation movements.

"From our understanding of the dangers of the new conspiracy and its dimensions, we consider it our national responsibility — in our capacity as the PLO, representative of the Palestinian Arab people in all its factions and national forces — to reject and confront the new

plot, and to protect our people, their inalienable national rights in their homeland Palestine; and our Palestinian Revolution.

"The honorable stand of our masses in the occupied homeland and outside it and the stand of the Arab masses which rejected the Camp David agreements and announced their determination to confront this new plot against our people and their inalienable national rights and against the Arab Nation, provides us with further determination to confront this conspiracy and further confidence in actually repelling it. At the same time, we are shouldering a huge responsibility which we can only carry out with a united, popular and national stand, via the PLO.

"In response to the will of our people and to the challenges facing us; out of our belief in national unity within the PLO as the only road to victory; on the basis of the Palestinian National Charter, the resolutions of the Palestinian National Congresses, the Tripoli Document regarding unity between all factions of the Revolution, and the right of our people to establish a democratic state over the whole of their national soil; and finally in order to confront this critical and difficult phase in the struggle of our people; we the representatives of all factions of the Revolution and all Palestinian national forces, announce the following:

ON THE PALESTINIAN LEVEL

FIRST:

Upholding the inalienable national rights of our people in their homeland, Palestine; their right to return, their right to self-determination without any external interference, and their unconditional right to establish an independent state on their national soil.

SECOND:

Defending the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of our people, the leader of their national struggle and their spokesman in all Arab and international forums. Fighting all attempts to harm, ignore or by-pass the PLO, or to create alternatives to it or partners with it in representing the Palestinian people. Abide by the resolutions of the Algiers and Rabat-Arab Summits and by the resolutions of the United Nations, particularly resolution 3236 and 3237 which confirm our inalienable national rights and stress Arab and international recognition of the PLO as sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

THIRD:

Our firm determination to pursue and escalate armed struggle and all forms of political and popular struggle, particularly inside the occupied territories, since the latter represents the main battlefield with the Zionist enemy; and this in order to realize the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

FORTH:

Stressing that the Palestine cause is the core and essence of the Arab-Zionist conflict; and rejecting all resolutions, agreements and settlements which do not recognize or which undermine our people's rights in their homeland, including their rights to return, to self-determination and to establish their independent national state — particularly Security Council resolution 242.

FIFTH:

Rejecting and confronting the self-rule plan in the occupied homeland, which consolidates Zionist settler-colonialism in our land, denies the rights of our people, and cancels our people's aim of national independence.

SIXTH:

Reaffirming the unity of the Palestinian Arab inside and outside the occupied homeland, and their unified representation within the PLO; confronting all plans and attempts to partition our people and to by-pass the PLO; striving to support the struggle of our people under occupation and to consolidate their unity and steadfastness.

SEVENTH:

Backing the establishment of a Palestinian National Front in the interior, as an inseparable part of the PLO; and providing it with all means of political and financial support which would enable it to mobilize the masses in confronting the Zionist occupation and their plans and projects which are hostile to our people and to their national rights.

EIGHTH:

Attachment to Palestine as the historic homeland of the Palestinian people for which there is no alternative; and fighting all plans for resettlement or for the creation of an "alternative homeland" put forth by the Zionist — imperialist enemy, with the aim of liquidating the Palestine cause and Palestinian National struggle and of ignoring the right to return.

THE PROGRAM OF NATIONAL UNITY



ON THE ARAB LEVEL:

FIRST:

Confirming that the confrontation of the Camp David accords and its annexes and their dangerous repercussions on the Arab struggle, is the responsibility of all the Arab masses and their national and progressive forces; and that the National Front for Confrontation and Steadfastness and its pillars, Syria and the PLO, are the central pivot in confronting the US-Israeli settlement conspiracy.

SECOND:

Striving to support and consolidate the Confrontation and Steadfastness Front and to expand it on the basis of resistance to the imperialist — Zionist settlement conspiracies; attachment to the objective of liberating all Arab and Palestinian occupied territories and to the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people; and provision of all possible popular and material support to the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, particularly the PLO and Syria.

THIRD:

The PLO calls on all national and progressive parties, movements and forces in the Arab World to back, and to offer all forms of popular and material support to the Steadfastness and Con-

frontation Front. It also calls on them to cooperate and join in the struggle against US-Israeli settlement plans.

FOURTH:

a) The PLO stresses that it firmly abides to the unity, Arabism and independence of Lebanon, and reasserts its respect for Lebanese sovereignty and its commitment to the Cairo Agreement and its annexes, which organise relations between it and the Lebanese authorities.

b) The PLO highly values the role which the Lebanese people and its national and progressive forces have played and continue to play in support and in defence of the struggle of the Palestinian people. While stressing its pride in this unity between the Palestinian and the Lebanese peoples and their national and progressive forces in defence of Lebanese land and of the Palestinian Revolution against Israeli aggression, plots, and local agents, the PLO confirms the necessity of continuing and consolidating this unity.

FIFTH:

a) The PLO reaffirms the special nature of the relations binding the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples, and expresses its concern to maintain this cohesion between the two fraternal peoples.

b) The PLO declares its attachment to the Rabat and Algiers Arab Summit resolutions, which confirm that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and confirm our people's right to establish an independent national state. It considers the Jordanian regime's commitment to these resolutions, its rejection of the Camp David accords and of any involvement in these accords, and its enabling the PLO to exercise its responsibilities in the struggle on the popular level against the Israeli enemy, as the basis which governs the PLO's relations with the Jordanian regime.

SIXTH:

The PLO stresses its right to struggle on the Arab and national levels via any Arab territory, for the liberation of the occupied Palestinian territories.

SEVENTH:

The PLO declares that its relations with, and stand towards, any Arab regime, are defined by

the various regimes' commitment to the Algiers and Rabat resolutions and their rejection of the Camp David agreement, their annexes and repercussions.

EIGHTH:

The PLO calls on all the Arab nationalist forces and on all nationalist and friendly regimes, to support the Egyptian people and their national movement, and enable them to confront Sadat's conspiracy, and foil the Camp David agreements and their repercussions on the Egyptian people, their Arabism and their long history of resistance to Zionism and imperialism.

ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL:

FIRST:

The role which the USA is playing against our Palestinian people and their national struggle, and against the Arab national liberation movement and its objectives, whether through its support for Israel or through its lackeys in the Arab world, represents a blatant aggression against our people and their national cause. The PLO, together with all the factions of the Arab liberation movement and forces and with the nationalist and progressive regimes, declares its determination to resist US policy, objectives and practices in the area.

SECOND:

The PLO confirms the importance of its alliance with the Socialist states led by the USSR, as a national necessity in confronting US — Zionist conspiracies against the Palestine cause and the Arab liberation movement and its achievements.

THIRD:

The PLO stresses the importance of consolidating its cooperation ties with the friendly Non-Aligned, Islamic and African states, which support the PLO and its struggle for the realization of Palestinian national rights of return, self-determination, and establishing an independent national state.

FOURTH:

The PLO, as a national liberation movement, declares its support for all national liberation movements in the world, particularly in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa, and expresses its intention to develop its relations with these movements, considering that struggle against

imperialism, Zionism and racism are a common cause.

FIFTH:

The PLO declares its adherence to the achievements of Palestinian struggle on the international level, including the international recognition of the PLO and the national rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland, Palestine. These achievements have materialized in UN resolutions since 1974, specifically resolutions 3236 and 3237 which confirm the right of the PLO to participate in all meetings and conferences on the Palestine issue, and which consider such agreements or discussions null and void in the PLO's absence.

ON THE ORGANIZATIONAL FIELD:

1) All the Palestinian Revolution's factions and the Palestinian national forces participate in the PLO's institutions, primarily in the National Congress, the Central Council and the Executive Committee, in accordance with the principles of democracy and frontal relations.

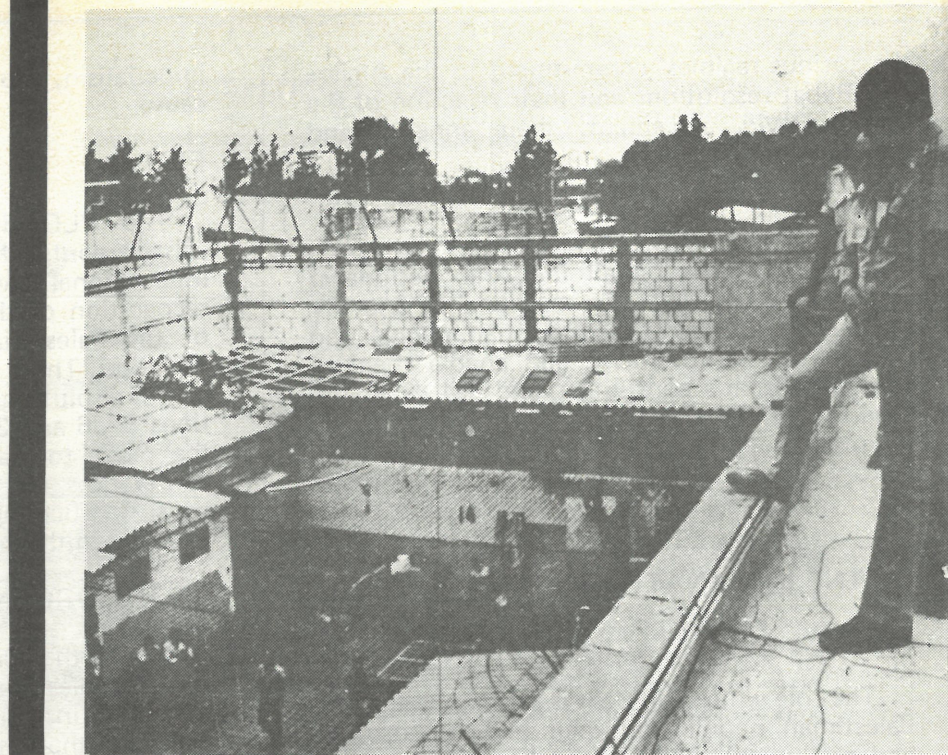
2) The Palestinian leadership is a collective one, i.e. decision making is the responsibility of all, in its adoption and implementation, on the basis of democracy and the commitment of the minority to the majority's decision according to the political and organizational program and to the resolutions of the National Congress.

3) Full guarantee of the exercise by the PLO's departments, institutions, and apparatuses of their prerogatives, according to their specializations, as stipulated by the PLO's internal code. The Executive Committee forms supreme professional specialized councils on a frontal basis, to put forth plans and supervise their execution by the PLO's institutions, especially in the military, informational, and financial fields.

4) The Executive Committee and the Central Council are to be formed according to what is agreed upon and as stipulated by the internal code of the PLO and the National Congress resolutions.

5) The next Executive Committee will begin its activities by putting forth the necessary plans for the implementation of the provisional program, and will reassess the apparatuses and departments of the PLO, taking into consideration expertise and quality to ensure maximum productivity.

HALT ZIONIST BRUTALITY AGAINST PALESTINIAN PRISONERS



Palestinian political prisoners and prisoners of war in Zionist jails are subjected to the worst kinds of inhuman physical and psychological torture. Most of them are now in critical health. Among the 5000 Palestinian detainees, it has become difficult to determine the number of those who are suffering from diseases that seriously threaten their lives. Hundreds of them now suffer in wretchedness because of the torture they receive and the unhealthy conditions of the jails they are kept in, aggravated by the deliberate lack of medical care.

These conditions constitute a policy of "death by installment" against our jailed militants. The occupation authorities refuse to release them until they are paralyzed and/or practically dead.

Last September Palestinian militants in the Ashkelon jail sent a telegram to the Zionist Minister of the Interior, protesting the death of their comrade Yousif Ahmad Kareem, who died of torture and medical neglect. They said that during the week preceding his death, Yousif was in solitary confinement where he was tortured, in spite of being paralyzed and in very poor health. His suffering did not

save him from the savagery of the Zionist police, who denied him the medication he needed. All these factors led to his death. The prisoners also protested the behaviour of the medical orderlies, whom they accused of posing as medical students, but who in reality abuse the prisoners' bodies regardless of their humanitarian responsibilities. They take irresponsible decisions to amputate the limbs of many prisoners after the latter have undergone systematic and daily torture.

The death of lawyer Salim Hafez Ghanam on 28 May 1978 in a Zionist jail in Nablus, is only one example of that Zionist policy. At the time, Zionist authorities falsely maintained that Ghanam's death was due to severe heart attack.

UNDENIABLE FACT

The brutal practices of the Zionist jailers against our militants have become an undeniable fact to the extent that Knesset member Charlie Bitton, of the Israeli Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, urged the Knesset to investigate them. On December 27, Bitton caused an uproar in the Zionist parliament when he handcuffed himself to rostrum microphones

during a debate on Jewish dissidents in the Soviet Union, and demanded that the House drop the subject from the agenda and discuss the conditions in Israeli prisons instead (*Reuter*, 12 December 1978).

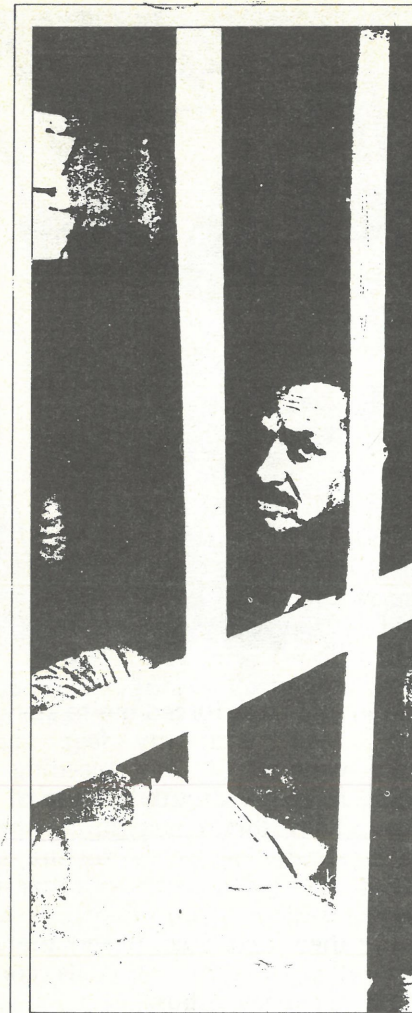
IMPRISONMENT UNTIL THE LAST BREATH

Zionist authorities recently refused a request made by Palestinian doctors in the West Bank to treat the Palestinian militant Aisha Awda, 34, who is suffering from severe pains in her spinal cord, a stomach ulcer, rheumatism and various other ailments.

Awda has been in jail serving a life sentence since 1969, and her health has been deteriorating ever since due to the various types of physical torture inflicted upon her.

The occupation authorities have also rejected a request by the International Committee of the Red Cross to release Awda because of her poor health.

This request of the Red Cross is supported by the progressive Jewish lawyer Felicia Langer, who has called on the Red Cross as well as



the Human Rights Commission, other international bodies and world public opinion to save the life of Aisha Awda and other Palestinian militants suffering from poor health as a result of savage torture by the Zionist authorities. In a statement, Langer exposed the appalling conditions in Zionist prisons and described in detail the health problems of Aisha Awda and other militants. She added that she had found Aisha very pale and unable to walk when she last visited her.

An account of the torture which Aisha Awda has been subjected to was released by Hala Taher, a militant Palestinian teacher who was expelled from the West Bank after being released on February 8 last year. She said that in Ramleh Prison (Neve Tresta Women's Prison) she had learned how Palestinian women are subjected to physical and psychological torture.

Concerning Aisha Awda, Hala said that in addition to giving her brutal beatings, "they took her virginity by assaulting her with a rod." They also commanded trained dogs to bite her naked body.

MORE BRUTALITY

Other examples of the brutality of Zionist jailers were revealed last June by the progressive Jewish lawyers Lea Tsemel and Uri Shlonsky. After their visit to Ibrahim Abu Gharbiyeh in Ramallah prison, a few days after his arrest on June 23, they reported that Ibrahim, who is only 26 years old, came in limping, somewhat bent and supporting his abdomen with his arms.

also spat phlegm on the floor and Ata was told to lick it. Several times Avraham told Ata to kiss his shoes.

The two lawyers also stressed the inhuman practices and psychological torture Ata was subjected to. They said that on 15 May Ata's sister was detained in Ramallah. Ata was stripped of all his clothes and was told that his sister could see his nude body. When he attempted to cover his genitals, the interrogators forcefully removed his hands.

ALL ARE VICTIMIZED

These brutalities and savageries,



He sat down sighing. His first words were that he had asked to see a doctor several times but his request had not been granted. He recounted that he had been ordered to stand on his head for half an hour, and every time he fell, the interrogator kicked his abdomen and testicles. Two interrogators cursed and swore at him and they spat in his face.

Lawyers Tsemel and Shlonsky reported that the interrogator in Ramallah prison, named Avraham, used a variety of torture techniques. He forced Ata Saleh Ali, 34, arrested last May, to open his mouth by punching him in the face. When Ata finally opened his mouth, Avraham spat phlegm into it and forced him to swallow it. He

however, are not only committed against militants who carry out their internationally recognized right of militarily resisting occupation of their land. In general, offenses Palestinian militants are charged with range between contacting the enemy (usually a relative or a close friend whom the Zionist authorities claim is a member of a Palestinian organization), distributing leaflets, writing slogans on wall, raising a Palestinian flag, throwing stones at military cars, buses or soldiers, and participating in demonstrations expressing discontent with Sadat's initiative, Begin's "self-rule" project and the Camp David accords. In addition, the Zionist authorities often find



excuses to carry out collective punishments and to make arbitrary arrests, whereby many are put under "administrative detention" for months or even years without ever being charged. Their detention is sometimes extended for unlimited periods, and in effect it becomes imprisonment for life.

Yet these measures are not limited to adults but are even applied to teenagers. Charges against these children range from throwing Molotov cocktails at army vehicles to burning wheels as a means of protest, and to throwing stones at soldiers. Again, the occupation authorities can always find scapegoats.

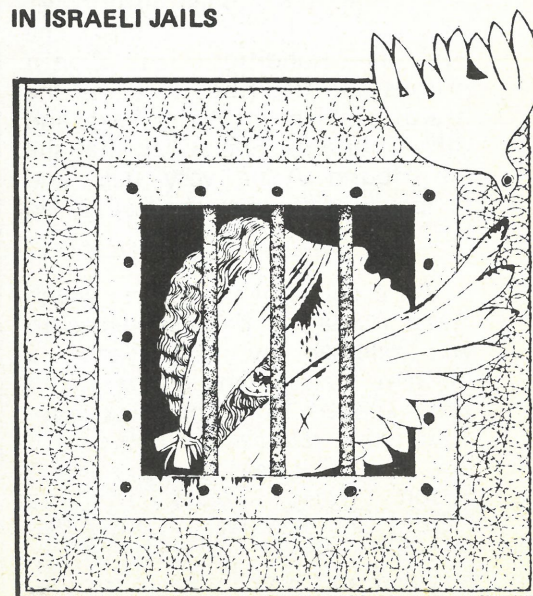
Nabil Mahmoud Salamy, a 13 year-old pupil from Qalandia camp, gave the following testimony on April 24 last year:

"When they arrested me, they covered my head and took me in a military car. On the way, they sprayed gases into my face. When we arrived, the investigator (Sami) started to beat me. He ordered me to strip, but I refused. He then beat me with a club, so that I had no choice but to take off my clothes. Once I was naked he continued beating me on my sexual organs and testicles."

"They forced me to stand on my head, with my feet tied to a window. I was bleeding heavily from my mouth because of torture. They threatened during three consecutive days of torture to bring both my mother and sister and rape them in front of me. It was only then that I confessed that I made the Molotov cocktails and threw them at the bus."

FREEDOM

FOR PALESTINIAN DETAINEES
IN ISRAELI JAILS



PALESTINIAN CITIZEN DIES IN ISRAELI JAIL

The Palestinian citizen Rateb Aref Abdel Salam died 20 January 1979 in the Ramleh prison in occupied Palestine, as a result of the savage torture he was subjected to in both the Ramallah and Ramleh prisons. The martyr was first detained in the Ramallah prison and then transferred to the Hadasah hospital for treatment. He was later taken to the Ramleh prison, where he died.

OCCUPATION DIARY

ONE KILLED AND ONE WOUNDED IN CLASHES OVER ATTEMPTS TO PURCHASE ARAB LAND

On January 7, 1979 Palestinian citizens in the village of Majed al-Krum, on the Acre-Safad road in occupied Palestine, violently opposed Zionist attempts to purchase their land after destroying their homes.

The Zionist authorities declared that the purchases were in compensation for the destruction of their houses. The Palestinian citizens declared their attachment to their land, and their intention to rebuild their houses on it. The Israeli authorities had earlier destroyed a villager's house with explosive charges, which resulted in the destruction of ten neighbouring Arab houses, and led to clashes between Arab and Zionist citizens.

As a result of the clashes, Ahmed Nassar, an Arab citizen, was killed and another was seriously injured; while dozens of Israeli policemen and border guards were also injured by the stones and sticks of the Arab villagers, who confronted the enemy soldiers as the latter were destroying their homes.

ISRAEL AUTHORITIES PROHIBIT PUBLICATION OF WEST BANK MAGAZINE

The Israeli authorities in early January rejected the request of the Palestinian poet Assad al-Asaad to publish a cultural-literary magazine titled "al-Katib." Lawyer Felicia Langer has presented a request to the Israeli Supreme Court asking it to demand that the Israeli Interior



Minister demonstrate why he prohibited the issuing of a permit for the magazine.

STRIKE IN NAZARETH AGAINST ISRAELI POLICIES

On January 15, the Nazareth Municipal Council staged a strike against the Israeli policy of blatant discrimination and fiscal economy, which have made it impossible for the Municipality to render services to the inhabitants of Nazareth.

Tewfiq Zayyad, Mayor of Nazareth, declared at a press conference that this symbolic one-day strike was only a warning to the Israeli authorities, and would be followed by stronger steps if the Israeli Government does not pay what is due to the municipality soon. He said he rejected the policy

of discrimination among the different municipalities, which currently being adopted by the Israeli authorities, further explaining that the mainly Jewish upper Nazareth municipality was allocated a budget of IL85 million, while that of Arab Nazareth was only IL82 million, with a population three times greater than that of Upper Nazareth.

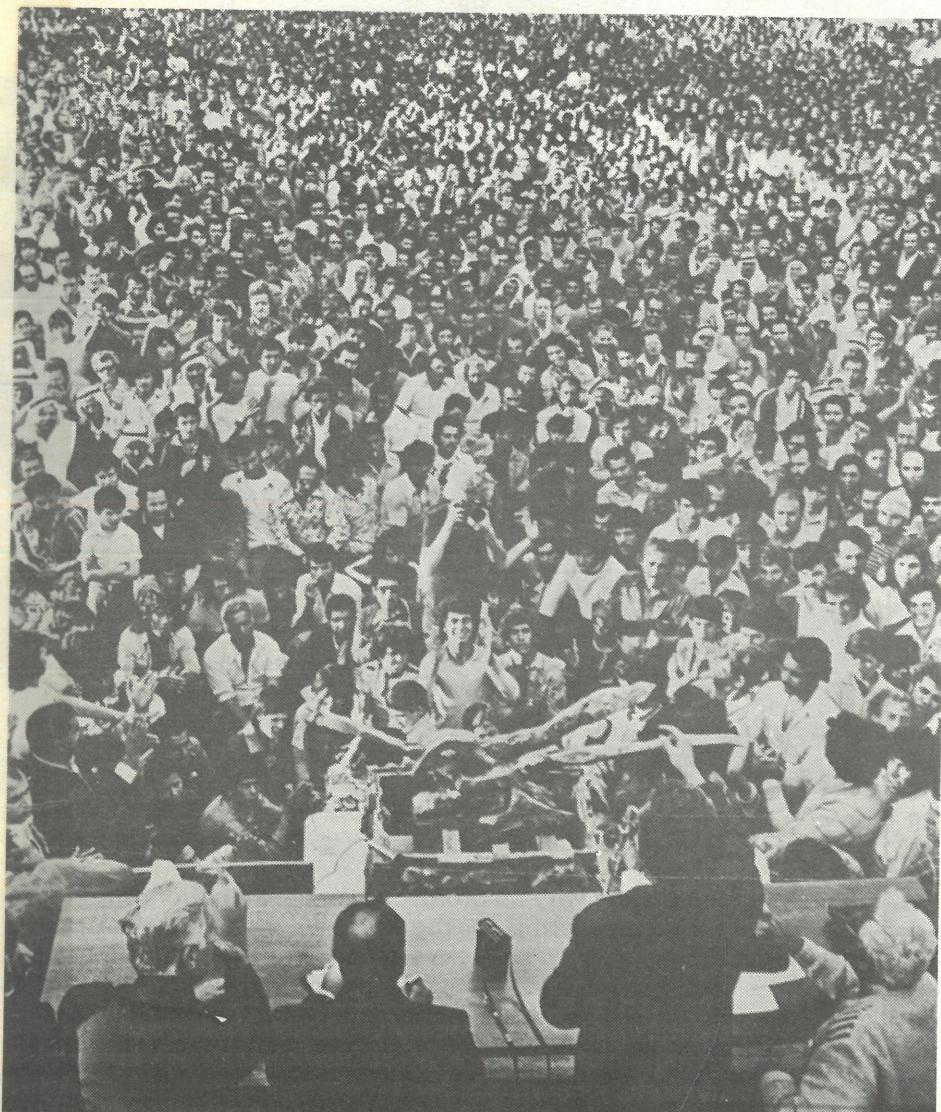
BIR SABE PROTEST MEETING ON LAND SEIZURES

A popular meeting was held in Bir Sabe' on January 18, in which the participants discussed the ongoing Israeli expulsion of the Arabs in the Naqab and the confiscation of their land.

Several West Bank notable students, workers and a delegation



OCCUPATION DIARY



"We are here in order to defend our land" (Tewfiq Zayyad at Nazareth protest rally)

from the Committee for the Defence of Arab land, attended the meeting and unanimously condemned the Israeli policies, and confirmed their attachment to their land. They also resolved to send a memorandum to the UN, explaining the nature of Israeli practices against the Arabs of the Naqab.

In related news the citizens of Ikrit and Kfar Bir'um condemned the latest resolution of the Israeli

Ministerial Committee, which banned their return to their usurped villages, and threatened to burn themselves alive in front of the Israeli Prime Minister's office, if the Zionist authorities insist on implementing the decision. They stressed that they will continue their struggle by all means to restore their land and homes. It's worth recalling that the occupation authorities had frequently promised the inhabitants of the two villages

that they would allow them to return.

NAZARETH MUNICIPALITY STAGES STRIKE

The municipality of Nazareth began a general strike on January 22 in protest against the Israeli policy of financial pressures, and demanded that the Israeli Ministry of Interior pay its financial obligations to the municipality. A large number of students and citizens also staged a march in solidarity with the demands of the municipality.

The Mayor of Nazareth, Tewfiq Zayyad, delivered a short statement to the demonstrators stating that the municipality does not favor strikes as a means of struggle but that there was no alternative to the achievement of basic rights.

Zayyad also gave a statement to the correspondent of Israeli Radio in which he said that the Israeli authorities have been stalling in granting the municipality its rights for several months.

The student councils in the secondary schools of Nazareth also issued a joint communique declaring support for the municipality and called on the Nazareth teachers to give their support. The municipality received several support cables from the various Arab committees, institutions and local authorities, as well as visits from Arab Mayors who came to express their support.

Several cables of condemnation were also sent by the local Arab authorities to the Israeli Ministry of Interior, while the Arab Student's Council in the Technion, Haifa, held an emergency session on January 21 in support of the



Palestinians demonstrating against Zionist land confiscation and occupation

municipality, and sent cables of condemnation to the Israeli authorities.

Tewfiq Zayyad also sent a cable to the Israeli Minister of the Interior, in which he explained the reasons for the strike and demanded an immediate solution.

In a speech before Arab Mayors at the meeting of the Regional Committee for the Defence of Arab land held at the Cultural Institute of the municipality on 20 January 1979, Tewfiq Zayyad gave a speech in which he spoke of the general situation in Galilee and the Triangle area and particularly of the seizure of land, explaining: "In 1948, the Arab individual owned 6.8 dunums of land on the average in the Arab villages. As for now, the individual Arab only owns one dunum of land."

He added furthermore that the Israeli policy of land seizure is still continuing and increasing, and therefore it is high time to organise a popular revolt for the defence of what little is left. He also spoke about the demolition of houses, and praised the citizens of Deir Hanna who rose up against this Israeli policy. He ended his speech

by saying: "We must resist such policies at any cost."

ISRAELI PLAN TO OCCUPY IBRAHIMI MOSQUE

Israeli newspapers on January 10 exposed the Israeli authorities' intention to gradually occupy the Ibrahimi Mosque in the West Bank city of Hebron.

The papers, quoting an Israeli official, stated that the occupation authorities intend to expand the Jewish section of the Ibrahimi Mosque, in order to enable Jews to practice their faith.

Meanwhile, several clashes were reported to have taken place between the Israeli settlers and the Palestinian inhabitants of Hebron when the former tried to take over the Mosque.

WEST BANK JUDGES CALL FOR UN INTERVENTION

On January 26, the Muslim religious Qadis (Judges) in the occupied West Bank released a memorandum protesting the desecration of the Ibrahimi Mosque at the

hands of Qiryat Arbaa residents and other Israeli settlers.

The memo was signed by the following Ulama:

- Sa'adeddine al-Alami, Qadi of Jerusalem
- Hilmi al-Muhtasib, Acting Qadi of Jerusalem
- Wasef Abdo, Qadi of Nablus
- Rajab al-Toumaymi, Qadi of Hebron
- Adli al-Jawhari, Qadi of Tul-karm
- Sha'aban al-Khalidi, Qadi of Jenin
- Abdel Qadir Badih, Qadi of Ramallah
- Abdel Azim Shelhab, Qadi of Jericho
- Maha al-Muhtasib, Qadi of Bethlehem
- Mohammad Abu Kharurah, Qadi of Qalqilya.

The judges appealed to the international and national conscience, to the UN, the Human Rights League, the International Red Cross, and other international organisations to intervene and halt the acts of desecration.



MILITARY OPERATIONS

COMMADO OPERATIONS IN NABLUS AND TEL AVIV AREAS

A Palestinian commando on 13 January placed an incendiary bomb in the headquarters of the Israeli military governor in Nablus, which exploded and started a fire which damaged a large part of the building. Immediately after the operation, Israeli forces surrounded the area, and as usual dozens of Palestinians were arrested on suspicion of participating in the operation.

A special group of our commandos operating inside the occupied territories planted timed incendiary charges on January 15 in a chemical factory in the commercial area ofnei Brak, northeast of Tel-Aviv.

The charges exploded, starting a fire which spread to the rest of the factory and destroyed a major part of its contents, as well as injuring a number of workers.

Enemy losses were estimated in the hundreds of thousands of Israeli pounds, according to an Israeli radio broadcast, which stated that the factory was completely destroyed by the fire.

LARGE CAR-BOMB DISCOVERED IN JERUSALEM

Israeli security forces on 16

January discovered a 30kg. explosive charge planted by Palestinian commandos in a car parked in a Jerusalem street, and managed to defuse it before its explosion.

COMMANDOS EXPLODE CHARGES IN ZIONIST SHOPPING CENTRE

On the orders of the General Command of the forces of the Palestinian Revolution, the Martyr Abu Ali Iyyad commando group reached its target in Jerusalem on 18 January, in spite of intensive Israeli security measures and the state of alert declared by enemy forces following the discovery of a booby-trapped car placed by the same commando group in Jerusalem on January 16.

The 'Abu Ali Iyyad' group planted timed highly explosive charges at the entrance of a shop in the Mehna Yehuda shopping centre in the city of Jerusalem.

At 10:45 a.m., the charges exploded, killing or injuring more than 40 individuals; destroying nearby shops and the windows of nearby houses; damaging the electricity network in the shopping centre; and finally destroying several military and civilian vehicles which were parked in the shopping centre.

Consequently, the city of Jerusalem witnessed the broadest campaign of arrests, which included dozens of Palestinian citizens, on suspicion of being connected with the operation.

The commando group nevertheless returned safely to base.

COMMANDOS EXPLODE CHARGES IN HAIFA

Palestinian commandos on 19 January set off charges near a shopping centre in Hertzl street, in the suburbs of occupied Haifa.

The charges exploded at 8 p.m. causing human and material losses denied by the enemy, despite its admission of the operation one hour after its execution.

Haifa consequently witnessed a massive campaign of random arrests by Israeli security patrols, checkpoints, and civil guards. A large number of Palestinian citizens were detained on suspicion of being connected with the operation, but our unit returned safely to base.

COMMANDOS IN OCCUPIED PALESTINE RESPOND TO MURDER OF ABU HASSAN

Palestinian commandos based



Israel sappers checking place of Jerusalem bomb blast

inside occupied Palestine and belonging to the unit of martyr Ali Hassan Salameh ("Abu Hassan", who was murdered in a Zionist-staged bomb blast in a crowded Beirut street on 22 January 1979) launched an attack in Nathanya, north of Tel Aviv. Despite tight Israeli security measures imposed inside the city, they managed to place timed explosive, which went off with a loud explosion at 11:20 a.m.

The blast killed more than 5 Israelis, injured approximately 55 others, destroyed a number of stores and vehicles in the area, and broke the glass in the surrounding buildings.

The Israeli security forces immediately set up checkpoints and closed off the area of the central market place and its main entrances with hundreds of policemen, troops, and civil defence men. Meanwhile the fire caused by the explosion spread to other large commercial establishments in the market.

The Israeli forces arrested hundreds of Palestinian citizens who were in the area and at the main entrances of the city, on charges of involvement in the operation.

ATTACK ON RISHON LETZION SETTLEMENT

The same day, Palestinian com-

mandos on 22 January placed timed explosive charges in front of an Israeli intelligence officer's apartment, in the settlement of Rishon Letzion.

The charges exploded at 8:00 a.m. and the blast was heard all around the settlement area. The explosion completely destroyed the Israeli officer's apartment, and two other apartments on the same floor.

Despite all the security measures adopted by the Israeli forces, our commando unit managed to carry out its operations according to plan.

BEGIN ON MURDER CHARGE



Zionist Prime minister Begin
— wanted for murder

In November 1948, the Atlee Labour Government was prepared to demand the extradition of Menachem Begin to Britain from the United States to face a murder charge.

Foreign Office papers released in early January 1979 in the British Public Record Office reveal that Ernest Bevin, Foreign Secretary, and Lord Vansittart, Head of the Service, were very worried by a letter they received from the father of a British sergeant who had been hanged by Begin's terrorist organisation in Palestine, the Irgun Zvei Leumi.

H.E. Paice wrote to Lord Vansittart on November 15, 1948:

'I beg to charge Menachem Begin as an accessory to the murder of my son Sgt Mervyn Paice and his colleague Sgt Clifford Martin on 30 July 1947 at Nathanya in Palestine.

Paice enclosed a broadcast made by the IZL of which Begin was head. It proclaimed that the two sergeants, who were part of Britain's 100,000 man force in mandated Palestine, were spies and had



Unarmed Palestinian villagers slaughtered by Begin's gang at Deir Yassin

been executed for 'criminal anti-Hebrew activity'.

At the time of Paice's letter Begin was visiting the United States.

The Foreign Office minute noting the letter was penned by secretary James Thirkell. He wrote:

'Mr Paice's letter makes me feel distinctly uncomfortable. I think there can be no doubt that Menachem Begin was an accessory to the murder of Sergeants Paice and Martin at Nathanya in July 1947. Begin is now a Palestinian citizen and, subject to the legal adviser's views. I do not think that we can possibly claim his extradition from the United States on the grounds that he was, under the terms of the Mandate, a British subject at the time that the murder was committed.

AN UNFRIENDLY ACTION

'On the other hand, the information given by Mr Paice does make the State Department's action in giving Begin a visa a markedly

unfriendly one towards this country. It is perhaps unfortunate that this particular activity of Begin's was not fully realised, or passed on to Washington at the time when we asked them to refuse Begin a visa.'

Lord Vansittart agreed that Begin was responsible for a "toll of British lives" and asked the legal department whether it was feasible to charge him with murder. Begin and the extreme Zionists were opposed to the British and United Nations proposals for the partition of Palestine and carried out a violent campaign of terror, killing many civilians as well as soldiers during 1947 and 1948.

The British Embassy in Washington sent reports of the outraged reaction in the United States to Begin's visit — even from many famous Jewish scholars and notables.

'Mr Begin and his followers had preached a mixture of ultra-nationalist and religious mysticism and racist superiority. Like other fascist parties, they had been used to break strikes and had themselves pressed for the destruction of free trade unions.'

REPORT OF BEGIN'S CRIMES

The Embassy report went on to say that the 'terrorist band' had 'horrified supporters of Zionism' and cited among its crimes the bombing of the King David hotel when 91 civilians had been killed and the Deir Yassin massacre, when Begin's gang slaughtered nearly 254 unarmed Arab villagers.

The British Embassy cited the widespread Press opposition to Begin in the United States, including a bitter editorial in the 'Washington Star' horrified that Begin was claiming that the deaths at Deir Yassin were 'due to house-to-house resistance offered by the inhabitants'.

For several weeks the Foreign Office considered the possibility of extraditing Begin, but finally regretfully decide that the legal case was too shaky. It was considered that in any event the United States would claim that Begin's crimes were political and 'wriggle out of it on that ground'.

The foreign Office replied to Mr Paice: 'Mr Bevin has the greatest sympathy with this request,' but unfortunately there was not sufficient evidence to show that Begin was a British subject at the time of the murders.

The Embassy in Washington was asked to point out to the State Department the new evidence of Begin's crimes.

"PEACE" PRIZE FOR MURDER

'While this would make no difference in the case of Begin, it is just possible that it might make them think twice before acting in the same way on similar future occasions.'

The murderer Begin escaped the British gallows and went on to get the Nobel Peace Prize for his crimes against the Palestinians.

(from the British daily "News Line", 2 January 1979).

NEW ACTS OF DESTRUCTION IN JERUSALEM WALL

The Israeli newspaper "Maariv" recently reported that both the Israeli Minister of Housing and Mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kolek, had agreed to open a new gate in the Jerusalem wall as quickly as possible in order to solve the alleged traffic problem.

Meanwhile, another project is underway for the construction of an underground car park in the new Jewish quarter in Jerusalem; and a Jewish religious group has reportedly asked the Israeli authorities to open the Golden Gate leading to the Bab-al-Rahme cemetery.

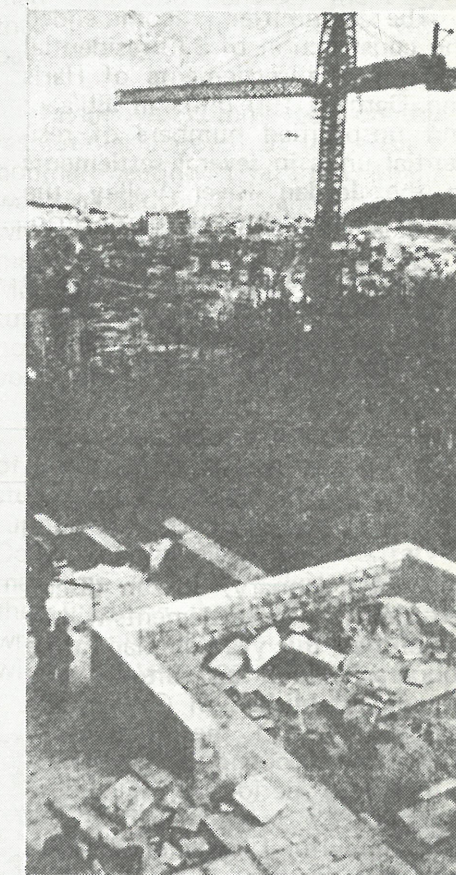
ISRAELI MEASURES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SETTLEMENTS

Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Minister of Agriculture and Chairman of the Ministerial Settlement Committee, declared on January 14, that the committee has issued a draft resolution regarding the establishment of four new settlements in Nablus, Khan al-Ahmar, Ramallah and Nabi Saleh in the West Bank.

Other Israeli ministerial sources meanwhile declared that the Israeli Cabinet had decided in December to establish three settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; but that this was not announced for security reasons.

In related news, Israel Radio on January 14 reported that a new organisation called the "Israeli National Fund" has recently started its activities, which include the establishment of 28 new settlements as centres for absorbing more Zionist settlers. I.L. 200 million have been already allocated for this project.

Sources from within occupied Palestine reported that the Israeli authorities are as determined as ever to carry out their expansionist settlement plans, and are adopting



Israeli "excavations" in Jerusalem

new methods to attract Israelis to settle in Jerusalem: The Israeli Minister of Housing at the same time announced a 15% decrease in the rents of houses built north-east of Jerusalem in the 1967 — occupied territories. Also, the Israeli authorities have lately been confiscating land in the Hebron and Beit Sahour areas, in an attempt to establish more settlements there.

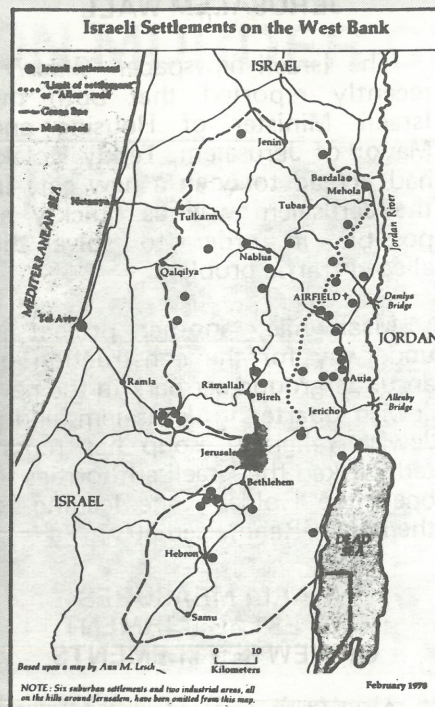
The Israeli Knesset's Financial Committee issued a decree on January 18 allocating I.L. 700 million for the increase and development of settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

The committee recommended the construction of 370 residential units in the settlements of Haris and Qarnus; 100 units in Jib'aan; and unspecified numbers of residential units in several settlements in the Jordan River Valley, the Golan Heights and the Gaza Strip.

The committee also specified a sum of IL60 million for the construction of new roads between the various settlements in Nablus.

NEW ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN GALILEE, WEST BANK AND NAQAB

On 22 January, Sharon disclosed, that 32 new settlements will be established this year, similar to the cooperative and agricultural ones already established in Galilee, the West Bank and the Naqab. He added that throughout 1978, which is half the period of the Likud government's term of office, 25 new agricultural settlements were built, 12 of them in Galilee after more than a ten year freeze of settlement activities in that area. Sharon added that the government is preparing a project for the establishment of 26 agricultural villages in Galilee, and 20 observation units in the mountains of Galilee. Sharon also repeated the statement of the Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan made during the latter's talks in Brussels, regarding the necessity of establishing 20 settlement units in the Jordan River Valley. As regards settlement in the West Bank, Sharon stated that this will depend on the discussions which the government will hold on the self-rule project, but he confirmed that 17 new settlements, 30 of which are semi-military, will be



A web of new settlements over Palestinian land

built in the West Bank before the end of this year.

PROTESTS

In related news, Hashem Saleh, head of the Toubas municipality, condemned the Israeli policy of land seizures in Toubas which is the largest agricultural town in Palestine, with an area of 326,000 dunums. In 1948, the Israeli authorities seized 50,000 dunums of irrigated agricultural land. Following the 1967 aggression, the authorities fenced off an area of 80,000 dunums of irrigated land, and put an end to 140 projects started on this land, in addition to demolishing houses, schools and other constructions.

Hashem Saleh added that the Israeli authorities have seized 2,700 dunums from the Bugaya region, and dug several wells there, in preparation for the establishment of a new settlement. The authorities have also expelled about 5,000 citizens from this area, the majority of whom are between the ages of 20 and 30.

The citizens of the village of Abu Dis called on the Israeli military governor to cease all construction works there and rejected the claims of the Israeli military governor of Bethlehem, that the decision to confiscate that land was taken five years ago.

The citizens of the village of Yasouf, south of Nablus, also requested the cessation of construction works in the settlement of Tafouh al Jadida after the land was confiscated allegedly for 'security reasons'.

Meanwhile, the inhabitants of Nabi Saleh, northwest of Ramallah, met recently to discuss the on-going construction works undertaken by the Gosh Emunim movement on the Nevi Tasouf settlement in spite of an Israeli Supreme Court declaration calling for an end to all settlement activities in that area.

The citizens also accused the Israeli authorities of collaborating with, and encouraging, the Gosh Emunim movement, enabling them to continue with their settlement policies.

ARAB STUDENTS AT HAIFA UNIVERSITY CONFIRM SUPPORT FOR PLO

The Committee of Arab students in Haifa University condemned Zionism as a racist and imperialist movement, in a memorandum it distributed, on January 15, inside the university campus. The memo also called for confrontation of such a movement on both the intellectual and practical levels; and reaffirmed that the Palestinian Arab students in the territories which were occupied in 1948 consider themselves an indivisible part of the Palestinian Arab people as a whole, and recognise the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Arab students' memo mo-

reover condemned the Camp David accords, describing them as the result of defeatist tendencies in the area, and accordingly rejected Security Council Resolution 242.

Meanwhile, an Israeli professor at the University of Haifa threatened to expel all those who condemn Zionism. He said it was necessary to look into the contents of the Arab students' memorandum, which he considered dangerous, particularly in an institution subsidised or financed by Zionism.

ISRAELI AUTHORITIES DEMAND EXPULSION OF PALESTINIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS

On January 19, Knesset Member Arnon Lin demanded the expulsion from Israeli universities of all Arab teachers and students who had signed a letter to the Palestinian National Congress, in which they declared that they did not recognize the state of Israel, and confirmed their support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people and for the PLO in its capacity as the sole

legitimate representative of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories.

On January 20 the president of the Israeli students union at the Hebrew University asked the University administration to take measures against Palestinian students, following the distribution of a political communique by Palestinian and progressive Jewish students. The communique called for the continuation of struggle against Israel's aggressive and expansionist policies and against its repression of Palestinian citizens under occupation.

The Zionist student groups at the university have meanwhile asked for the expulsion of the Palestinian students from the university.

ISRAELI MINISTERS THREATEN TO EXPEL PLO SUPPORTERS

Israeli Ministers recently threatened the Palestinian population with

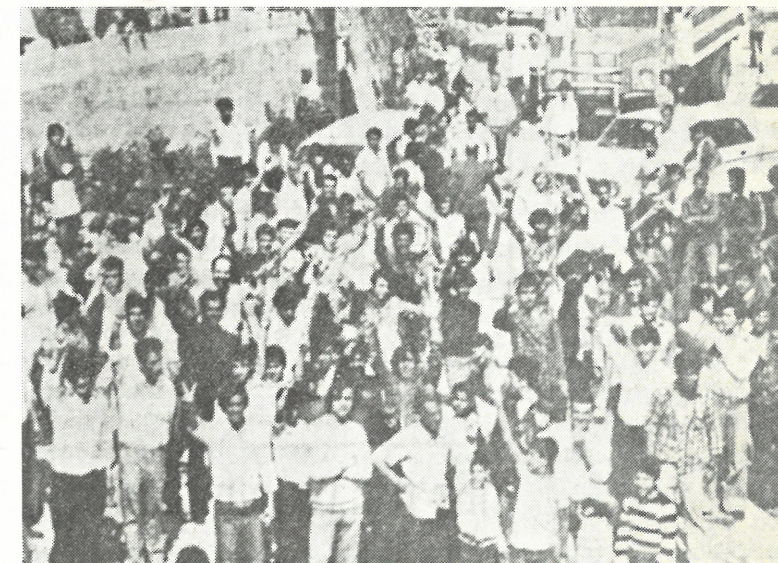
Moshe Dayan, the Israeli Foreign Minister, stated: "Those who advocate the establishment of a Palestinian state and consider the PLO their legitimate representative will pay a dear price."

Dayan was commenting on the resolutions adopted at last week's popular meeting in Nazareth, which was attended by 28 Galilee Mayors who consider the PLO their legitimate representative. The Israeli Minister of State, Moshe Nassim, in turn said that his government will not accept bitter enemies who have vowed the destruction of Israel.

Meanwhile, the Israeli Minister of Education threatened Arab students who sent a letter of support to the Palestinian National Congress. He said that arbitrary measures will be taken against them; adding that such attitudes which express support for the PLO will not be tolerated in future.

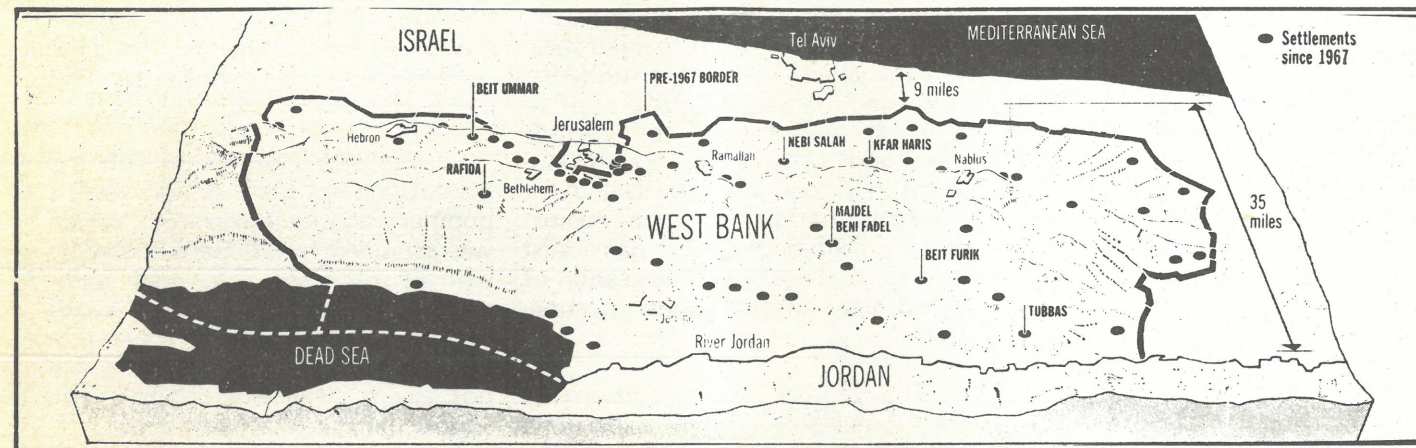


An elderly Palestinian couple stand in the rubble of their home recently blown up by Zionist occupation authorities near the West Bank city of Nablus



Students demonstrating their Palestinian identity

ISRAELI REPORT DISCLOSES "SELF-RULE" SWINDLE



Settlements are intended to allow for eventual annexation of occupied territories

The "self-rule" scheme elaborated at Camp David by Carter, Begin and Sadat means nothing but the perpetuation of the Zionist occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This becomes clear as daylight from a report established recently by the Director General of the "Committee for Self-rule" attached to the Israeli Prime Minister's office. Essence of the report was published in the Israeli newspaper "Ha'aretz" of 24 November 1978, from which we take the following excerpts:

"Israeli control over the governmental lands in the West Bank and Gaza strip, continued maintenance of the water sources in the areas, and the setting up of Israeli municipalities in the areas in which Israeli law would be applied: These are the basic implications of the periodical report which was presented by the committee in order to define Israel's stand in respect to the self-rule issue. The General Director of the Prime minister's office who heads the committee will present the report next weekend to the cabinet.

"The Committee will present its

final report in the middle of December. The sub-committees are working now on different documents related to the self-rule issue.

"The three basic recommendations which the Committee members have presented are the following:

ISRAELI HOLD OVER ONE MILLION DUNUMS OF LAND IN 67-OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

"One million dunums of public lands in the West Bank and Gaza strip would remain under Israeli control. The interpretation of the Committee members concerning this issue is that these public lands were properties of the Jordanian Crown, and that there was no reason to allow the self-rule authorities to be established to inherit the Jordanian Crown lands. Israel would, according to this recommendation, keep these lands until negotiations with the Jordanian government took place.

CONTROL OF WATER RESOURCES

"Concerning water sources, the committee members claimed that

the state of Israel can continue to keep these resources in the occupied territories due to the risks threatening the water resources inside the 'green line' for it is not possible to establish new settlements without supervising and controlling the water sources.

ISRAELI MUNICIPALITY COUNCILS FOR SETTLEMENTS

"The Committee recommended the creation of relations between the Israeli settlers in the occupied territories and the state of Israel, by means of establishing Israeli municipality councils in the occupied territories which would be subject to Israeli law. "The Ministry of the Interior is at present working to establish regional councils in the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories which would be subject to Israeli law. Some of the councils have already been set up. There is the Jehuda and Benyamin administration which takes care of the Gosh Atsoun and Hebron mountain settlements, as well as the Golan Administration. The administration bodies for the Yamit region and Samaria settlements are to be established shortly. The Ministry of the Interior will provide I.L. 100 million annually."



Victims of Israeli bomb raid at Palestinian refugee camp of Rashidiyeh

ONCE MORE VICTIMIZED

In the wake of Israel's aggression against and occupation of South Lebanon, it should be recalled that the UN Security Council dispatched the United Nation Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to facilitate Israeli withdrawal and the re-establishment of Lebanese sovereignty over the whole South. It should also be recalled that when Israel withdrew last June it handed over most of its advanced positions to 'Lebanese' stooges, contrary to U.N. stipulations.

Ever since this time, Israeli-controlled rightist militias have been harassing the UNIFIL force and challenging any Lebanese governmental move to re-instate state authority.

OPEN AGGRESSION AGAINST LEBANESE STATE AUTHORITY

On 9 January 1979, the Lebanese government dispatched a few troops to South Lebanon in compliance with a UN request to start the long task of reasserting its

authority in the South. This move antagonized the Zionist government, which controls the area by proxy.

The same day that the Lebanese troops moved south, Lebanese district commissioner Ghassan Haidar told reporters that the rightist gangs led by Haddad threatened to attack Tibnin, a UNIFIL-controlled village, unless the Lebanese government evacuated its gendarmerie post there.

On 11 January soldiers of UNIFIL's Irish contingent stopped a tank attack launched by Israeli units and right-wing Lebanese against the villages of Shakra and Tibnin.

In the meantime, the Israelis launched diversionary attacks on Palestinian refugee camps in UNIFIL controlled areas. On 16 January, Israeli forces made an attempted landing on a deserted beach near Tyre and destroyed a building before being forced to

withdraw under fire from Fateh forces near by. Israeli artillery and naval forces stepped up attacks on Lebanese villages and refugee centers.

CONDEMNATION BY THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

On January 19, only hours before the beginning of a UN Security Council meeting to renew the mandate of UNIFIL, Israeli forces from positions under the control of Haddad's forces launched an attack north of the Litani river killing several innocent civilians. Despite the fact that UNIFIL forces were stationed nearby, they made no moves to stop or counter the Israeli aggression.

At the United Nations later the same day, the Security Council voted to extend the mandate of UNIFIL for five months, and gave the Lebanon three months in which to restore governmental authority in the South. The Security Council

also criticized Israel for its obstruction of UN and world public opinion.

ESCALATION OF ZIONIST TERROR

But Zionist Israel answered with an escalation of its provocations and terror. Dropping the 'Lebanese' cover provided by the Haddad militia, Israeli land, air and sea forces openly intruded into Lebanese territory, daily spreading a new web of terror and destruction over broad areas. 30,000 civilians were driven from their homes and fled north, just as they had been forced to do last March in another Israeli invasion.

On 23 January 1979 alone, over 1000 bombs were aimed at the area

around Nabatiyeh. More bombs and rockets were launched against civilian targets in Tyre and the Palestinian refugee camps of Rashidiyeh and Bourj Shemali. In Rashidiyeh alone, over 70 houses and huts were destroyed. The same day, the Israeli war minister Weizman brutally threatened to bomb "civilian concentrations in Lebanon" with "Israel's superior firepower."

It was only due to the persistent resistance of the PLO forces and to international efforts that a precarious cease-fire was arranged by the UN on 24 January 1979.

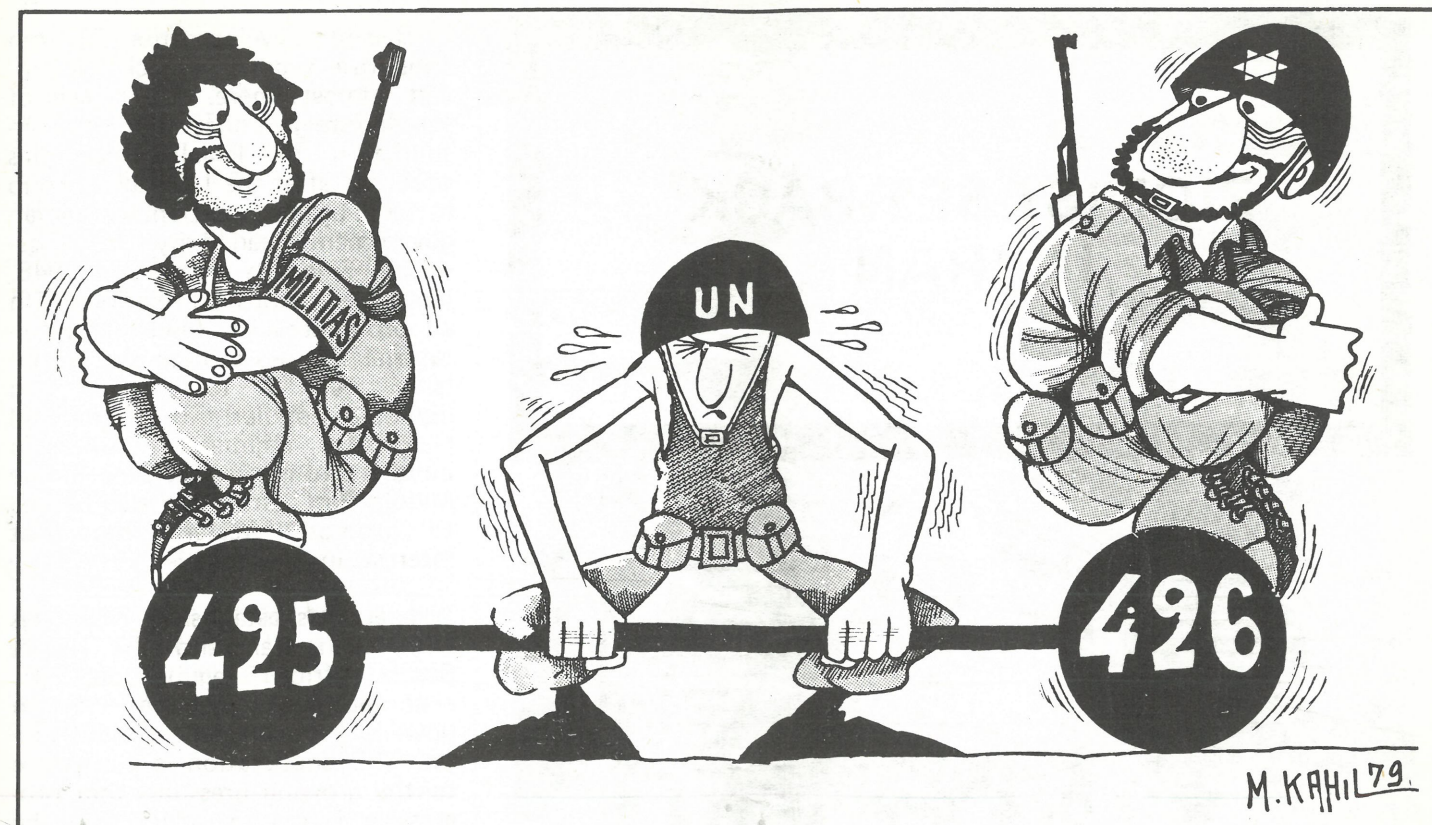
CREEPING ANNEXATION

What does Israel hope to gain by this? The answers are not hard to find. First, Israel wants to keep

Lebanon in a state of turmoil, hoping that pressures in South Lebanon will strengthen the hand of the isolationist forces elsewhere in the country. Israel would welcome the breakup of Lebanon into sectarian states, and uses the so-called "Lebanese Front" as tools to accomplish this. Second, Israel wants to assert its "right" to intervene in the affairs of South Lebanon. Having already installed Haddad's puppet forces in part of the region in defiance of UN resolutions, Israel is now intervening in areas where UNIFIL is present. Thus the world is witnessing a "creeping annexation" of South Lebanon, as Israel establishes "protectorates" and asserts a right to intervene militarily in the entire region. In addition, by emptying South Lebanon of its civilian popu-



A terror strategy aiming at the depopulation of South Lebanon



lation, Israel's attacks repeat a well-known Zionist tactic that has been used before as a prelude to conquest and annexation. Third, by attacking South Lebanon Israel is able to put pressure on the Arab world. The very real threat that Israel might use South Lebanon as a pretext to begin a new aggression against the Arab world forces the Arab states to deal cautiously with Israel. Fourth, Israel can use the same threat of an Arab-Israeli conflagration if the United States should put any diplomatic pressure on Israel in the current Egyptian-Israeli "peace" negotiations.

As at so many times before in the Zionist state's bloody history, innocent Arab civilians are paying the price of Israeli aggression and expansionism. But the Palestinians and Lebanese who must face this threat together are more determined than ever before to overcome it. With the support of the world community, and relying on the revolutionary's gun, they will withstand all Israeli attempts to destroy Lebanon and annex the South, and they will march on the path to victory.

LEBANESE MINISTER: 'WHAT THE NAZIS DID TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE'

"Lebanese Health Minister Ibrahim Sheayto declared on 25 January 1979 that what Israel was doing to the South Lebanese people had only one precedent: What the Nazis did to the Jewish people.

Sheayto declared: 'What is happening there now — the destruction and the massacre of innocent people, including the aged, the women and the children — has no precedent, except perhaps the Nazi precedent, from which the Jews themselves suffered and which they are now applying to other peoples.

'I am amazed', Sheayto added, 'at the way the world is watching these atrocities silently and allowing a state to trample the resolutions of the Security Council and all other international organisa-

tions.'

'What does Israel want?' he asked. 'If the Israelis are trying to make us reject the Palestinian cause, let them know that the Lebanese people can never reject the Palestinian people's right to return to their homeland. If they're trying to start a migration movement aimed at emptying the South and furthering their expansionist aims, let them know that the South Lebanese people will never let their land go.'

Sheayto said that despite the cease-fire, the South Lebanese town of Nabatiyeh was bombarded Wednesday."

(from *IKE*, Beirut, 25 January 1979)

ZIONIST SET-BACK IN IRAN



The Iranian people has put an ally of Zionist Israel into the trash can

Recent developments in Iran constitute a grave setback for Zionist interests there. It is typical of Israeli foreign policy that the consolidation of Israeli-Iranian ties occurred after the US-backed coup in 1952 against the popular Iranian government headed by Dr. Mossadegh. Since its creation in 1948, Israel has established relations with all pro-imperialist, fascist and dictatorial regimes around the world. Israel's aim is to obstruct and liquidate popular movements and progressive regimes in order to build a pro-imperialist bloc in the Middle East. Israel has also helped to promote Western imperialist interests in Africa.

Israel has established close ties with both Iran and the racist South African regime with the encouragement of the Western powers, especially the United States. This cooperation is a response to the growing pressures that progressive forces in Africa and the Middle East are exerting against imperialism. To meet this situation the reactionary Iranian-Israeli-Arab alliance called for the establishment of "security" in the Gulf and the Red Sea. Of course, this means more than the cooperation of stooge regimes to subvert the progressive forces in South Yemen and Ethiopia, and to protect imperialist interests in the area.

Iran under the Shah supported Sadat's capitulationist policies and Israel's attempts to establish an American-sponsored axis comprising Egypt, Iran and Israel. In recent years, high ranking Israeli and Egyptian officials, among them President Sadat and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, visited Tehran and exchanged views with the Shah on the Middle East. As one senior American official put it, Iran represents "strategically, both in an economic and political sense, a vital cog in the collective Western political and economic system."

As vital cogs in the imperialist system, Israel and Iran have cooperated in many fields. In the military field, Israeli experts flowed into the country to train Iranian troops. Israel has also provided arms to Iran. Moreover, the Israeli intelli-

gence service, Mossad, trained the Iranian secret police, Savak, in methods of torture. Savak used these methods against Iranian progressive elements, just as Israel uses them against Palestinians under Israeli military occupation. Encouraged by the CIA and other Western intelligence agencies, Savak and Mossad exchanged information to help protect imperialist interests in the Middle East.

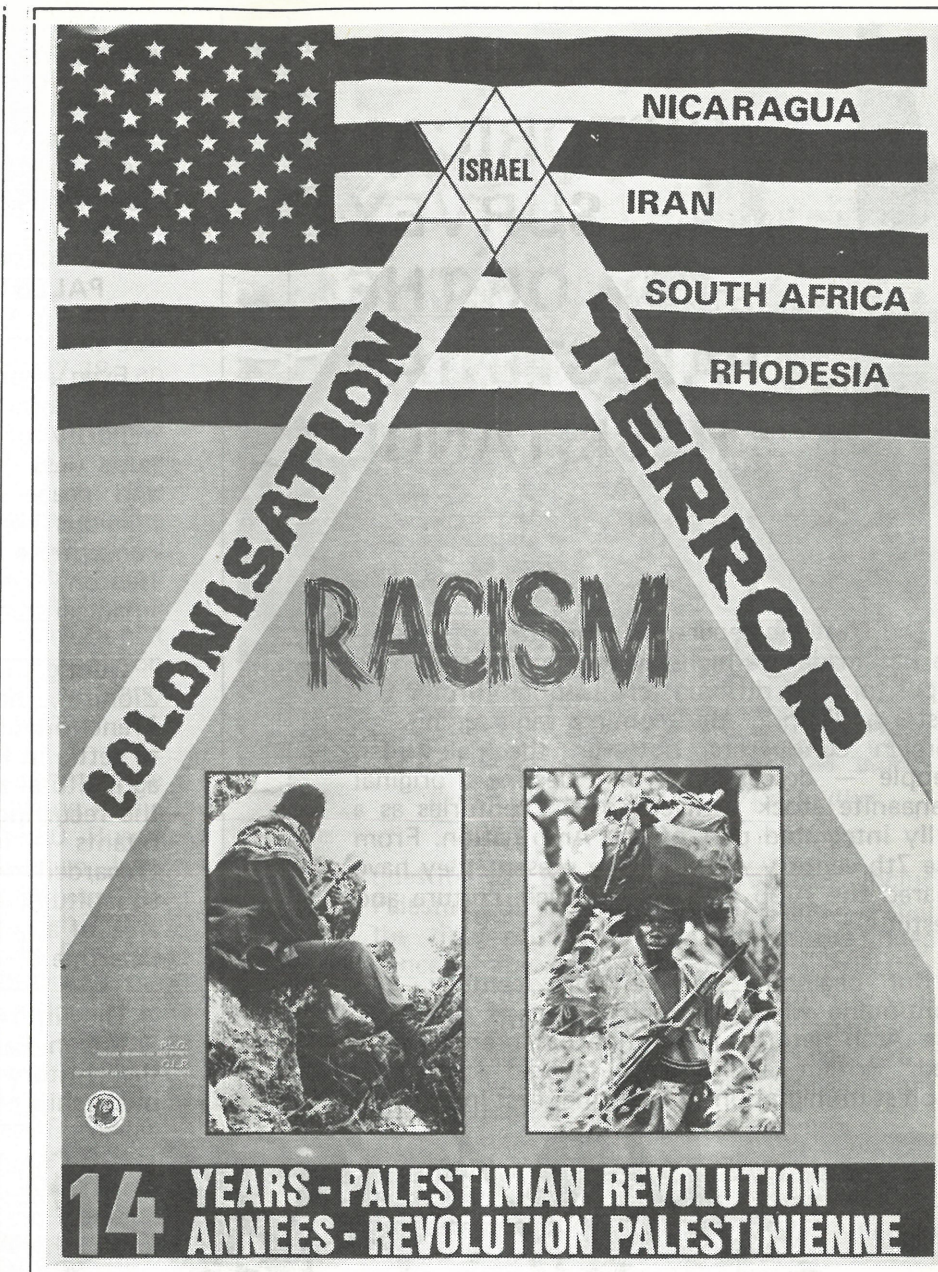
Iran under the Shah was arming itself to be imperialism's watchdog in the Gulf. It spent billions of dollars on weapons, and formed an imperialist alliance with Israel and South Africa to promote aggressive imperialist schemes. The Shah stated clearly that "if any country of the region asks for our help we will give it to them." The presence of Iranian troops in Oman is an example of the kind of help he was offering.

Israel approached Iran about cooperation in the nuclear field, and asked Iran to contribute by financing the uranium-enriching plant in Démona, Israel, along with South Africa. Iran also took on the responsibility of training Israeli pilots to master the American-made Phantom jets following the 1967 war.

IRAN: A WIDE FIELD FOR ISRAELI EXPLOITATION

The Shah offered limitless cooperation with Israel. Iran met 60 per cent of Israel's oil needs, which exceed 60,000 barrels a day. Likewise, Iran used to permit Israeli businessmen to compete for lucrative contracts, and Iran bought Israeli goods. The *International Herald Tribune* of 4/1/79, reported that Iranian "imports from Israel have passed the 100 million dollar-a-year mark, and were rising rapidly."

Through his "White Revolution," the Shah paved the way for imperialism to tighten its grip on Iran. In the countryside the Shah expelled the peasants and confiscated their lands, and then offered the land to the Israeli Koor conglomerate, which provided agricultural specialists whose task was to study



the best methods of exploiting land and increasing the misery of the oppressed Iranian masses. The Israeli Solel Boneh building contracting firm was at the service of the Shah's "modernization" projects. In fact, this "modernization" consisted of nothing more than looting Iran in order to improve the ugly face of the Shah's regime.

NO CRIMES WITHOUT PUNISHMENT

The revolution in Iran has been a great shock to Israel. The Iranian

religious leader Ayatullah Khomeini has clearly stated that "not one drop of oil will go to Israel." Israeli officials have expressed their fears that whatever happens will be bad for Israel. The Israelis fear the new Iranian government will sever all ties with them and then kick them out. An Israeli diplomat has painted a gloomy picture of Israel's future prospects in Iran. He said: "If we leave now, it will be difficult to ever come back." The rising revolutionary tide in Iran will certainly convince the Israelis that the sooner they leave, the better.

HISTORICAL SURVEY OF THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE

The strategic geographical location of Palestine has made it a highway for conquerors and a repository for different civilizations throughout history. Despite the comings and goings of foreign conquerors, however, the Palestinian people — descendants of Palestine's original Canaanite stock — lived for 13 centuries as a fully integrated part of the Arab nation. From the 7th century AD until the present they have shared the Arab nation's language, culture and destiny.

But beginning in the 19th century, and continuing with the tragic events of the 20th, the Arab nature of Palestine has been threatened. Britain and France favored systematic Zionist immigration to Palestine, first in order to

subvert the Ottoman Empire, and second, to use the Zionist bridgehead for the destabilization and penetration of the whole area.

From the very beginning, this process met the embittered resistance of the indigenous population of Palestine.

JEWISH IMMIGRATION AND PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE UNDER THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Even after Palestine was brought under Ottoman rule in the 16th century, only a very small minority of Palestine's original Jewish inhabitants (less than one per cent) continued to live and peacefully coexist there with the other religious communities. These indigenous Jews, concentrated in Jerusalem, Tiberias, Safed and Hebron, were engaged mainly in trade and financial transactions.

During the 19th century, however, European Zionism, heavily supported by British and French imperialism and capital, sent immigrants to settle in Palestine and set up the first Jewish agricultural settlements. The intruders soon met the recurring resistance of the Palestinian inhabitants — including the local Jews —, who "regarded with alarm the establishment of agricultural colonies or the inauguration of an area of any kind of labour by (Zionist) Jews in Palestine."¹

The intruders also made use of the 1856 Ottoman Land Law which for the first time in the history of the region allowed private ownership of land. This gave Zionists in Europe

the opportunity to buy land from the government in Istanbul without the consent or even the prior knowledge of the inhabitants of Palestine. Palestinians had for centuries enjoyed rights to the land and had been farming it. Their complaints remained unheard in Istanbul, and in some cases the Ottoman army moved in to crush the peasants' resistance and remove them from their land.

This development was aggravated when, during the Russian-Turkish war of 1877-78, an estimated 150,000 Arab men were conscripted from Syria and Palestine to serve in the Ottoman army. "There is no sadder sight", wrote a contemporary observer, "than that of the recruits leaving a village in Palestine."² The dislocation of Palestinian peasants gave added impetus to Zionist European Jews who flocked to Palestine. Imperialist Britain and France supported the Zionists in their expansionist design so as to break the Ottoman monopoly on the rich economic resources of the region, and to gain footholds in this strategic location.

Tsarist Russia, on the other hand, opposed the Zionist immigration into Palestine, seeing it as a threat to Russian interests. "In 1880 Russia invited Ottoman restrictions on Russian Jews going into Palestine"³, but could not thwart the French and British moves. After all, "the Ottoman government was in desperate financial straits after a series of wars in Libya and the Balkans, and used Jewish financial influence to secure loans from Europe."⁴ Thus, Zionist immigration into Palestine continued.

Palestinian resistance to counter European aggression and the Zionist settlements was waged in all forms throughout the rest of the Ottoman period. The Sejiria uprising of 1908 where "Palestinian peasants stampeded Zionist settlements, uprooting saplings and damaging crops."⁵ can be cited as one example of resistance waged in the rural areas. The famous telegram of 1891 sent by a group of Jerusalem Arabs to Istanbul to protest Jewish immigration into Palestine is an example of the urban elite's resistance at the time.

In general, Palestinian resistance against Jewish immigration into Palestine took the form of spontaneous peasant reactions to new European Jewish settlements, and appeals by the urban Palestinians to Ottoman officials. The scope and dynamics of Zionism were not understood at the time, since Zionism had not yet materialized as a political movement of its own that could lay claim to Palestine.

PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE UNDER THE BRITISH MANDATE

The outbreak of the First World War put the



Riots in 1920 opposing influx of Zionist settlers

question of the Ottoman provinces, including Palestine, on the international agenda. Britain at the time promised to guarantee the independence of the Arab East, including Palestine, in exchange for Arab participation in the war on the side of the Allies. On the basis of the Husain-McMahon Correspondence of 1916, the Arabs entered the war under the leadership of Sharif Husain of Mecca.

In Europe Zionist leaders were quick to point out the great advantages Britain's imperial interests would enjoy by the establishment of a Zionist state. As Chaim Weizmann said, "We can reasonably say that should Palestine fall within the British sphere of influence, and should Britain encourage Jewish settlement there, as a British dependency, we could have in twenty to thirty years 2 million Jews out there, perhaps more, and they would form a very effective guard for the Suez Canal."⁶

Meanwhile the Arab forces were fighting effectively, as pointed out by the well-known British strategist, Captain Liddell Hart: "The Arabs almost entirely wiped out the Fourth Turkish Army, the still-intact force that might have barred the way to final victory."⁷ The British government issued the Balfour declaration on November 2, 1917 which promised to work for "the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people."

Contrary to the Husain-McMahon Correspondence, the British drew up the Sykes-Picot





Shaikh Qassam,
leader of
1935 uprising



Palestinian women
participating
in 1936 uprising

agreement with France, putting Palestine in the British sphere of influence. The British insisted that the areas liberated from the Turks should remain under their control, and accordingly they sent General Allenby on October 3, 1918, to "administer" the territories until the Paris Peace Conference of 1919.

The direct response of the Palestinian populace at the time was disappointment in Britain and fear of Zionism. This was manifested in 1920, after the Supreme Council of the League of Nations approved Britain's mandate over Palestine. Riots broke out all over Palestine.

Still, the Palestinian resistance did not take the shape of an organized uprising. The traditional leadership of Palestine advocated moderation. Shaikh Arslan, an exiled nationalist leader, was one who understood the scope and dynamics of Zionism's marriage with British imperialism. In a letter to his followers he explained: "An eruption in Palestine would be far more effective than sending a delegation to the West."⁸ The debate between radicals and moderates continued until the Fourth Arab Congress of 1921. The congress resolved that

political, not violent, means should be used for pressing Palestinian demands.

The political means of resistance were tried on March 24, 1921, when Winston Churchill arrived in Jerusalem. An Arab delegation, the Muslim-Christian Association, presented him with a note asking for the abolition of the Balfour Declaration and for the formation of a national government. Churchill's reply was given the same day when he visited a Jewish gathering and declared: "Personally, my heart has throbbed with Zionism since twelve years ago, when I made the acquaintance of Manchester Jewry."⁹

Nevertheless the traditional Palestinian leadership continued to rely on political means to press their demands. But Jewish immigration also continued and the frequency of spontaneous Palestinian rioting increased, until it exploded into waves of violence in 1929.

In August 1929, on the birthday of Prophet Muhammad, the Zionists organized a march into the Arab city of Jerusalem through the Jaffa Gate. They raised their flags on the Western Wall, in what was clearly a provocation. In a short time fighting spread over the whole country. "By the time order was restored, 249 persons had been killed — 133 Jews and 116 Arabs — and 571 persons wounded — 339 Jews and 232 Arabs."¹⁰ There continued to be instances of spontaneous Palestinian reaction. This situation persisted until 1935 when, due to Zionist immigration, Arab unemployment reached a catastrophic level. More and more Palestinian peasants were losing their livelihood. "The average Palestinian per capita income was \$7 a year, compared with \$34 for the Zionist farmers who replaced them."¹¹

THE EMERGE OF ORGANIZED POPULAR RESISTANCE

Some of the traditional Palestinian leaders could not bear the sight of the misery caused by Zionist immigration. Notables like Shaikh Qassam came to the forefront of the resistance. In 1935, Qassam in his religious teachings called for struggle and sacrifice, and gathered about him 800 followers, of whom 200 received some guerilla training. Pledging to give their lives for Palestine, Qassam and his followers made their way into the wooded hills of Janin. "They sold their wives' jewellery and some of their household furnishings to buy rifles and ammunition."¹² They started an organized guerilla campaign against British occupation forces and their Zionist allies.

On April 20 an Arab Higher National Committee was formed in Nablus, which called for a general strike and civil disturbances on the Ghandi model, to continue until a change in

Britain's Palestine policy was secured

The masses of Palestine, joined by Arab volunteers from neighboring countries, took to the hills and by the end of the year the movement had become a national revolt. The patriotic rebels were well over 5000 fighters scattered throughout Palestine.

Fawzi Kawokji, one of the resistance leaders of the late 40ies wrote in detail about the heroism, gallantry and self-sacrifice of the freedom fighters. "Scores would present themselves as if they were being invited, not to risk their lives, but to attend a wedding or a banquet."¹³

In an attempt to curtail the rebellion, the British in 1937 started talking about partitioning Palestine. At the same time they viewed benevolently the establishment of the Haganah, the military arm of the Zionist Agency, formed in order to combat the Palestinian resistance and to further Zionist ambitions.

The natural response of the Palestinian resistance was an escalation of the violence. Traditional leaders were driven out of the movement



British soldiers guard Arab resistance fighters at Acre in Palestine, 1948

and the number of fighters increased to 15,000 men in the hills of Gaililee, Hebron, Beersheba and Gaza. Arms were captured from regional police headquarters and British and Zionist installations were attacked.

By 1938 the Zionists had begun extensively arming themselves, under the benevolent gaze of the British, who themselves had brought in well over 20,000 troops to contain the Palestinian revolt. In their fight against the Palestinians the British resorted to terrorism and massacre.

In 1939 the resistance leader Abdul Rahim al-Haj Mahmoud was martyred. By the end of the year well over 3000 Palestinian Arabs had sacrificed their lives for the cause of Palestine. 201 British soldiers and 463 Zionists were killed in the revolt.

WORLD WAR II — ZIONIST. AGGRESSION INTENSIFIES

In September 1939 war broke out between Great Britain and Germany. The Zionists asked to take part in the war effort. Ben Gurion, justifying Zionist involvement in the war, declared: "The first world war brought us the Balfour Declaration, the second ought to bring us the Jewish State."¹⁴

In response Churchill announced that "after the war the Zionists would want to build up a state of 3 to 4 million Jews in Palestine. And such a plan would meet with my entire approval."¹⁵ Thus he approved the formation of a large Zionist force consisting of 30,000 soldiers. Other Zionist terrorist organizations, such as the Irgun Zvei Leumi and the Stern Gang, were also created but without official British sanction. All of these forces were ultimately used not only to counter Palestinian resistance but to speed up the expulsion of Palestinian citizens from their homeland.

From 1939 until 1947 the Palestinian resistance fought against well-organized and well-armed Zionist forces on the one hand, and British occupation forces on the other. Regionally, the resistance got moral support from the Arab League, which in December 1945 also introduced the boycott of Zionist goods from Palestine.

Conditions for the resistance during this period were very harsh. "Between 1936 and 1947 the British forces seized almost all the arms which the Palestine Arabs possessed."¹⁶ In other attempts to weaken the Palestinian resistance its leaders were arrested or exiled. Leaderless and without arms, the Palestinian resistance was no match for the Zionists. Nevertheless, steadfastness remained the Palestinians' hallmark.

STEADFASTNESS IN THE FACE OF PARTITION AND TERRORISM

In 1947 the US-backed partition plan was approved by the UN. Protest demonstrations were held and violence occurred all over the Arab world. Zionist forces, in particular the Hagannah, moved in to weaken Palestinian steadfastness.

The village of Khissos was demolished and its inhabitants massacred in cold blood. Nevertheless Palestinian steadfastness continued.

In 1948 the Stern Gang blew up the office of the Arab National Committee in Jaffa, while another Zionist group attacked Jaffa Gate in Jerusalem, killing 17 Arabs. Still, this did not

Abdel-Kader al-Husseini,
leader of
Palestinian resistance in 1948



break the will of the Palestinian populace. In April 1948, however, the Haganah, Stern and Irgun, led by the present Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, massacred 254 men, women and children in cold blood at Deir Yassin.

Zionist terrorism continued in area after area, and expelled the Palestinian inhabitants. On April 11, 1948, the 'Operation Jepta' was executed clearing eastern Galilee, Safed and Tiberias of Arabs. The Palestinian populace, armed only with sticks and knives, could not resist the well-organized and highly-armed Zionist force.

On April 21, British troops started withdrawing from their positions in Haifa, and handed over all their facilities to the Zionists, who started expelling the Palestinian inhabitants the moment they moved in. The resistance in Haifa fought bravely. Arabs from neighboring villages tried to come to the rescue of the inhabitants of Haifa, but the roads were blocked by evacuating British forces.

On April 22 Haifa fell and its inhabitants were either killed or thrown out. Jaffa met the same fate.

On May 14, 1948, the day the British Mandate ended, Ben Gurion declared the establishment of the State of Israel. The same day, Zionist forces occupied Acre and western Galilee and drove out their inhabitants. British forces withdrawing from Jerusalem handed over all their positions to the Haganah, which attacked and occupied the Arab residential area of Jerusalem. The local Palestinian resistance, outnumbered and outflanked, fought heroically for four days.

In the meantime Zionist volunteers poured into Palestine from the West and from South Africa. The Arab Legion of Transjordan also joined in on May 14 to defend what remained of Arab Jerusalem, on the side of the local resistance. Fighting continued until May 28 when the Zionist-held Old City surrendered.

The Zionists asked for more help from America and Britain to counter the growing resistance. In response Britain on May 27 suspended arms to Arab forces while the U.S. rushed in equipment and men to the Zionist side. In the meantime, America tabled a motion

at the UN, aimed at imposing a truce in June to buy time for the Zionists.

The Zionists seized this opportunity to build up their forces, and finally they resumed the attack. They conquered Lydda, Ramleh and Nazareth. To enable the Zionists to take a break a UN truce was re-imposed in July, after which the Zionists attacked and took over Beersheba.

By 1949 Israel, which had been recognized by the U.S. 16 minutes after Ben Gurion's declaration of independence, was accepted as a member of the UN. The same year armistice agreements with Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria were signed. By that time, 22 per cent of the land assigned to the Arab state by the UN partition resolution had been incorporated into the State of Israel.

DIASPORA - THE EMERGE OF FATEH

Through the spontaneous, democratically organized popular activity of Palestinians scattered throughout the Palestinian diaspora, the Middle East in subsequent years witnessed the reawakening of Palestinian national consciousness. This consciousness at first expressed itself through largely non-violent means, appealing to the international community's sense of justice.

Student leagues were formed in neighboring countries whose members toured the world and explained the Palestinian cause. Yasser Arafat at the time headed the student league in Cairo and visited the USSR and other countries in 1957.

In the face of continued Israeli intransigence, and attempts by Arab states to contain or liquidate Palestinian and radical Arab activity, it was inevitable that a more militant and widespread form of struggle should develop among the Palestinian people. Pioneers and other young committed Palestinians began secretly organizing the armed Palestinian revolution, and in 1965 Fateh was formed and began its organized armed campaign to liberate Palestine.

Notes:

1. Laurence Oliphant, *Haifa or Life in Modern Palestine*, p. 85.
2. C.R. Conder, *Tent Work in Palestine*, p. 334.
3. Neville Mandel, *The Arabs and Zionism Before World War I*, p. 30.
4. Ibid., p. 35.
5. Ibid.
6. Chaim Weizmann, *Trial and Error*, p. 256.
7. Joseph Jeffries, *Palestine: the Reality*, p. 234.
8. Frank Cass, *The Emergence of Palestine-Arab National Movement*, p. 50.
9. Oscar Robenowicz, *Winston Churchill on Jewish Problem*, p. 195.
10. Joseph Jeffries, *Palestine: the Reality*, pp. 234-5.
11. Warriner, *Land and Property in the Middle East*, p. 61.
12. David Hirst, *The Gun and the Olive Branch*, p. 72.
13. Muhammad Darwaza, *The Palestinian Cause*, Vol. I, p. 131.
14. Michael Bar-Zohar, *The Armed Prophet*, p. 73.
15. Chaim Weizmann, *Trial and Error*, p. 514.
16. *Survey of Palestine*, Vol. II, p. 592.

SOLIDARITY NOTES



Laotian PLO representative Safarini welcoming Party Secretary Saly Vongkamsao

PALESTINIAN CELEBRATION IN LAOS

On the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the Palestinian Revolution, a solidarity celebration was held in the Laotian capital Vientiane. It was attended by the wife of the President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Souphanouvong; Saly Vongkamsao, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Laotian People's Revolutionary Party; Sisana Sisane, member of the Party's Central Committee; Acting Foreign Minister Kamphay Boupha; as well as many other Laotian cabinet, party and army officials. Also attending the meeting were

officials of the UN agencies working in Laos.

PLO representative Mustapha Safarini addressed the meeting and Palestinian booklets and flags were distributed.

Comrade Kamphay Boupha presented the congratulations of the Laotian government and people to the Palestinian people for their victories. He expressed the Laotians' solidarity with the Palestinian people in their just struggle, under the leadership of the PLO, against Zionism, imperialism and their agents.

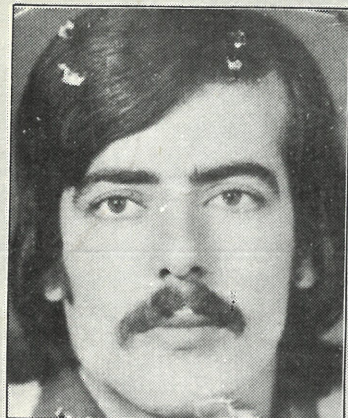
PLO DELEGATION TO AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION RETURNS FROM VIETNAM

On 25 January 1979, Colonel Abu Khaled al-Amleh, Member of the Fateh Revolutionary Council, returned from the Vietnamese capital Hanoi after heading a PLO delegation to the 7th meeting of the Presidential Office of the Organization of Afro-Asian Solidarity, which took place between the 13th and 15th of January.

During his visit to Hanoi, Abu Khaled met with the Vietnamese Prime Minister, Pham Van Dong, to whom he handed a message from Yasser Arafat, wishing the Vietnamese people further success in building socialism, and thanking the Vietnamese leaders for their principled stands in support of the Palestinian struggle.

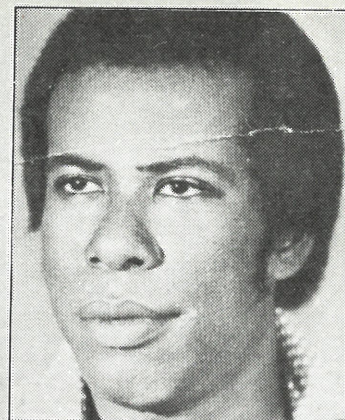
The Vietnamese Premier in turn handed Abu Khaled a message to the PLO Chairman, reiterating his country's support for the PLO and the Palestinian people's struggle against US imperialism, Zionism and their local agents. He also stressed Vietnam's condemnation of the Camp David accords and asked that Arafat be informed that: "We are with you until the victory of your Revolution. We are confident of your ultimate victory and of the fact that your imperialist and Zionist enemies will be defeated in the Middle East, as they were in Vietnam."

Abu Khaled delivered a speech on the day of solidarity with the Vietnamese people. He also held talks with the leaders of the various delegations participating in the meeting regarding the latest developments of the Palestinian cause.



Jamil Muhammed Hassan Salah

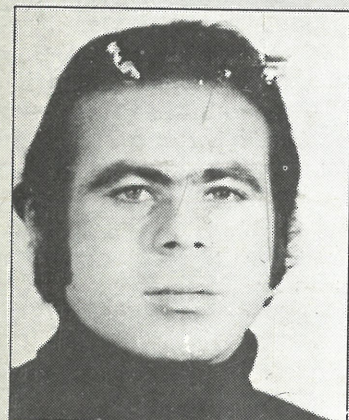
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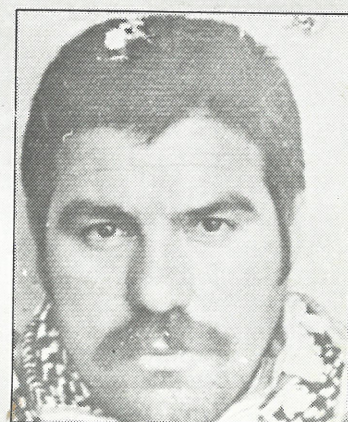
Khaled al-Asmar



ALI HASSAN SALAMEH
"ABU HASSAN"



Ali Issa Abdel Razzaq



Khalil Awadeh

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