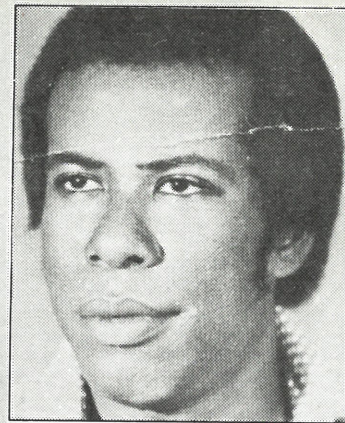


Jamil Muhammed Hassan Salah

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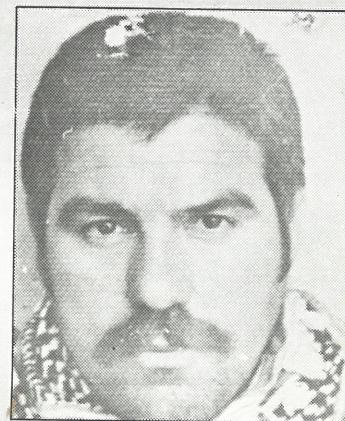
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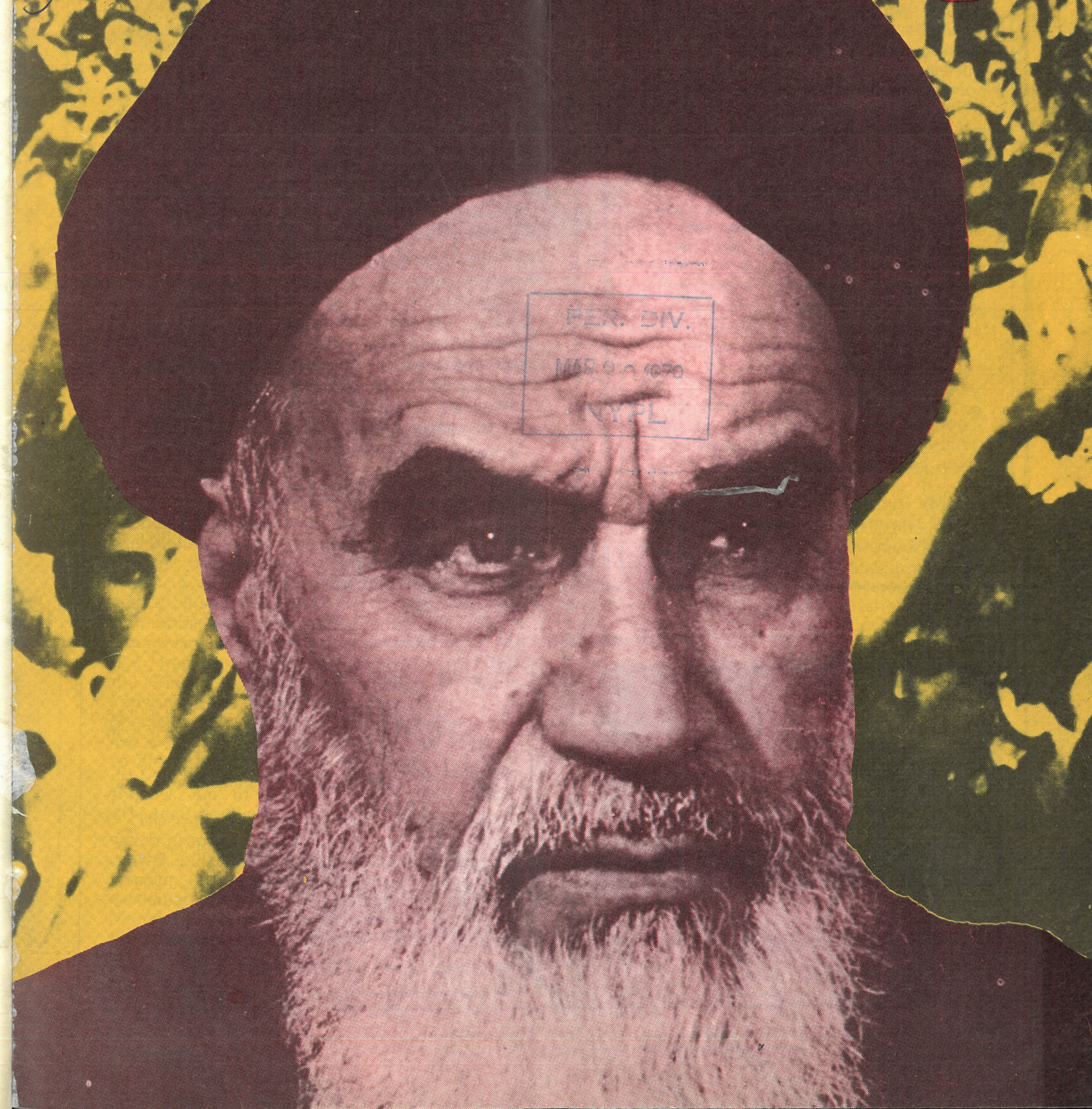


Khalil Awadeh

P.L.O.  
information  
bulletin

Vol. 5 No. 3  
16-28 February 1979

# Palestine





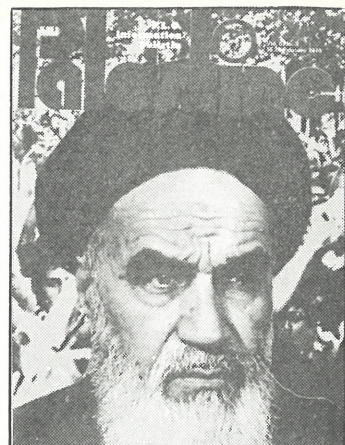
## TO OUR READERS....

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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## NOTICE:

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## EDITORIAL

# IRAN AND PALESTINE: ONE REVOLUTION

The glorious victory achieved by the Iranian revolution marks a historic turning point; not only for the history of the Iranian people, but also for that of the Palestinian people and the entire Middle East. For the first time in the Middle East since the Algerian revolution, a popular mass uprising has emerged victorious. A corrupt, exploitative and brutal dictatorship, backed by the full might of imperialism and Zionism, and armed to the teeth with tens of billions of dollars' worth of US military hardware, has been crushed by the people, and its criminal agents made to face their just punishment. All the bloody massacres, provocations and terror carried out by the Shah's agents, in collusion with the CIA and the Israeli Mossad, have failed in the face of the Iranian people's unanimous revolutionary steadfastness and power. All the various attempts to split the unity and thrust of the national and democratic uprising of the Iranian masses, led by the heroic Ayatullah Khomeini, have been thwarted by the people and their leadership.

The "Iranian earthquake," as the Zionist foreign minister labelled it, is a severe defeat for Zionism. The Shah's regime was Israel's closest accomplice in the aggressive Zionist pincer-strategy designed to hold down the Arab and Islamic world. Over 60 percent of the Zionist state's oil supplies came from the Shah's regime. Iran under the Shah had also become Israel's second-largest customer, outranked only by the U.S.. Iran bought arms, among other items, from the Zionist war economy. Scores of Zionist "advisers" had entered the country to train the Shah's machine of terror and repression. Now, not a single drop of Iranian oil will be funneled to Zionist warplanes, and the Zionist "advisers" have been expelled from the country.

The other big loser is American imperialism, which propped up the Shah's regime. Iran was a central pillar in US imperialism's strategy to threaten, dominate and exploit the region, in particular the rich oil resources of the Gulf. Moreover, the Iranian revolution has turned the fundamentals of the "Camp David" strategy

upside down. Fallen has one of the main lackeys in the American game to split the Arab world, and to stage separate deals with the collaboration of stooge regimes. This game, played out at the expense of, and on the backs of the people of the Middle East, and above all the Palestinian people, is now certain to fail. Other U.S. stooges have already been shaken by the Shah's downfall.

The main victors are the people of Iran themselves. They have conquered the strongest military and repressive machine in the Arab and Islamic world. Under Iran's Islamic Republic, the Iranian people, for the first time in their history, will have their vast national resources at their own disposal, and at the disposal of the forces of liberation in the whole region.

The Palestinian Revolution wholeheartedly cheers the victory of the Iranian revolution. The Palestinian and Iranian revolutions are "one revolution in two". For years the Palestinian people have supported by all possible means the struggle of the Iranian people. The Iranian revolution has been celebrated by our masses inside and outside occupied Palestine as a historic victory for our own revolution. Chairman Yasser Arafat, leading a high-level PLO delegation to Tehran, was the first foreign leader and friend to receive an enthusiastic welcome from the Iranian people, their leader Ayatullah Khomeini, and their new government. The premises of the Israeli mission in Tehran have been handed over to the PLO. Revolutionary Iran will be a firm and strong ally for the Palestinian Revolution, and for all liberation movements in the area. The Palestinian Revolution will no longer have to stand with its back to the wall, facing Zionist-imperialist attempts to annihilate it. The enemies of the Palestinian people will have to reckon with the new Palestinian-Iranian alliance. Above all, the shining example of the unity, steadfastness and struggle of the Iranian people under their revolutionary leadership will enhance the determination of the Palestinian people, led by the PLO, to continue their revolution until victory.

# Palestine

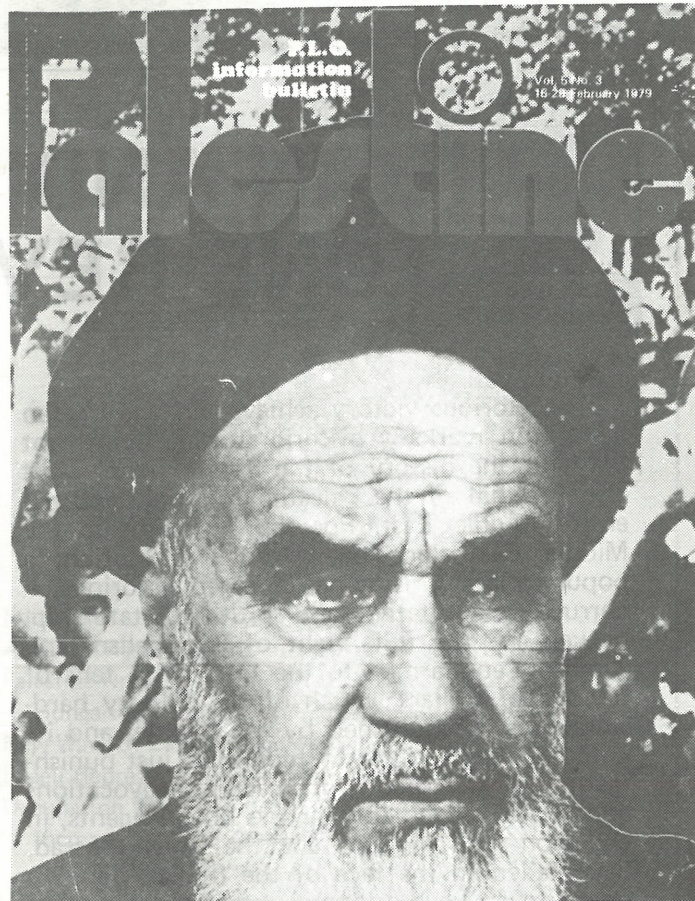
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Chairman Arafat: congratulations to the victorious Iranian revolution



## ARAFAT CONGRATULATES KHOMEINI ON VICTORY OF IRANIAN REVOLUTION

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat sent a cable on 11 February 1979 expressing heartfelt congratulations to Ayatullah Khomeini, on the occasion of the Iranian people's heroic victory over the imperial dictatorship:

"In my name, and in the name of the Palestinian people and its revolutionary militants, I sincerely congratulate you while you are in the process of achieving this historic victory of the Iranian people under your wise leadership.

"The victory of the Iranian

people, which has marked a high-point in human history, is a great victory for the Palestinian Revolution. This historic turning-point, which the people of Iran have reached in a rare historic epic, is the beginning of a new era in this region, and carries the tidings of victory to the people of this region after a long period of misery and of

racist Zionist occupation which has expelled our militant people, and imposed subordination and submission to US imperialism and Zionism on those in the region who had capitulated and accepted occu-

pation and slavery.

"The blows struck by the Iranian people under your faithful and courageous leadership constitute a warning and threat to imperialism, Zionism, colonialism and their agents in the area.

"This tremendous revolutionary ray of light which has emerged from militant Iran will light the skies of our beloved homeland, Palestine, and the skies of our Islamic Nation, illuminating the region with the light of this blessed flame which lights the path of

struggle for all oppressed peoples.

"This confirms that the Islamic nation will inevitably be victorious over all its imperialist, colonialist and Zionist enemies, and that our return to Jerusalem is very near.

"The faithful masses which have achieved this great victory today are opening a new era by virtue of their historic victory, not only for Iran but for the Islamic and Arab Nations and for all militant people in the world who fight against repression, and imperialist, Zionist, and colonial monopoly."

The message concluded by wishing Khomeini and the Iranian people further victories, and confirmed that the Palestinian people stand with them until victory.

### IRANIAN REVOLUTIONARY- COMMAND GREETES PLO

In a telephone message to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, the Iranian Revolutionary Command on 13 February 1979 confirmed that the Iranian Revolution, under the leadership of Ayatollah Khomeini, is also the Revolution of Palestine for the liberation and independence of all Arab territories, and the Revolution of all the oppressed peoples and the militants struggling against colonialism, Zionism and imperialism.

The Iranian Revolutionary Command moreover stressed that Iranian-Palestinian cohesion, which has proved its strength and firmness in the most difficult hours of fighting, has achieved its first victory in Iran by overthrowing the Shah and his imperialist regime. There is no doubt therefore that this Iranian-Palestinian cohesion will also achieve the liberation of Palestinian soil from Zionism and its aggressive racist base, Israel, which is desecrating the land of Palestine and which is a tool for the U.S.A., striving to disgrace the Arabs, to usurp their land and to liquidate the Palestinian people wherever they reside.

The Iranian Revolutionary Command then saluted Arafat, the

Palestinian people and all the Palestinian militants, confirming that the new Iran will be a strong base for the liberation of Palestine. It also thanked Arafat, in the name of Ayatollah Khomeini, for the Palestinian Revolution's firm stand with the Iranian Revolution and people throughout the long cause of struggle.

The Iranian Command concluded by expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the Iranian people for the Palestinian Revolution's prominent role in supporting the Iranian Revolution by all means, and stressed that this cohesion and fraternity between the Palestinian and Iranian Revolution will bring victory over the land of Palestine.

### IRANIAN MILITANTS DECLARE THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH THE PLO

On 10 February 1979, on the eve of the glorious victory of The Iranian people's national and democratic revolution, Iranian militants released from the prisons of the imperial dictatorship addressed a message to "Brother Abu Ammar (Yasser Arafat), leader of the Palestinian Revolution". The

message fully confirmed their support for the Palestinian Revolution and declared that Iranian soil is a base for the Palestinian Revolution until victory.

The message declared: "We, the freedom fighters of the people of Iran, have witnessed your life and death struggle in Fatah camps and battlefields with your racist Zionist enemies, and we are fully aware of how your masses have suffered from the multi-dimensional cooperation of the Shah's regime with the

Zionists and the capitulationist Arabs."

### ZIONIST EMBASSY TAKEN OVER

Iranian revolutionaries, on 11 February 1979, broke into the embassy of Israel in Teheran, burned its furniture, dismantled the electronic communications apparatuses and transferred all documents found inside the embassy to the University of Teheran. The Iranian militants thereupon covered the embassy walls with pictures of Ayatollah Khomeini, and wrote on it "Embassy of Palestine in Teheran." Iranian revolutionaries also besieged the US and Egyptian embassy buildings.



Iranian militants solidary with PLO



## PALESTINE NOTES

### ARAFAT RECEIVES CABLE OF CONGRATULATIONS FROM HONECKER

Yasser Arafat, on 31 January, 1979 received a cable of congratulations from Erich Honecker, Secretary-General of the German Socialist Party's Central Committee and President of the GDR State Council, on the occasion of Arafat's reelection as Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee during the 14th session of the Palestine National Congress.

The cable expressed faith in the implementation of the resolutions taken at the conference, and confirmed the solidarity between the PLO and Democratic Germany in their struggle against imperialism.

### ARAFAT SENDS CABLE TO PFLO

Yasser Arafat, on February 6 sent a cable of thanks to the popular Front for the Liberation of Oman (PFLO), in response to the cable of congratulations sent by the latter on the 14th anniversary of the Palestinian Revolution.

In his cable Arafat pledged the Front and the whole Arab nation to continue on the road of struggle, with the support and cooperation of all honourable Arab forces, in order to foil all plots to occupy further Arab territory, and in order to achieve the aspirations and objectives of the Arab nation.

### ARAFAT CONGRATULATES NEW PRESIDENT OF ALGERIA

Yasser Arafat sent a cable of congratulations on February 9, 1979 to the newly elected President of the Popular Democratic Republic of Algeria, Colonel Al-Shadhly Ben Jedid, in which he

said: "The Palestinian people have received with great pleasure the news of the confidence placed in you by the Algerian people and their party.

"We are fully confident that the revolutionary course laid down by the late President Houari Boumedienne will further progress and will continue Algeria's revolutionary contributions to the Arab Nation and firm stand towards the Palestine cause, people and Revolution."

Arafat added: "Our people find in your revolutionary march the support they need in their struggle against the Camp David accords and the conspiracies aimed at the Palestinian people's national rights.

"Our enemies," he said, "must rest assured that our people, our revolution and our militant fighters will not hesitate to offer more sacrifices.

### ARAFAT MEETS WITH TITO

Yasser Arafat, on 9 February met with Yugoslav President Joseph Broz Tito in Damascus, who is actually on a Middle East tour. The two leaders discussed the latest developments in the Arab World since the Baghdad Arab Summit conference, where Arab consensus on the rejection of the Camp David agreement was reaffirmed. The discussions also dealt with the importance of the Iraqi-Syrian rapprochement and the positive results of the 14th session of the Palestinian National Congress, as well as with the latest developments in the Middle East, particularly the Iranian popular revolt.

The importance of the Non-Aligned Movement and the latter's effective role in supporting the legitimate national rights of the

Palestinian people was also discussed.

The meeting was attended by several Yugoslav and Palestinian officials, including the Yugoslav Minister of Foreign Affairs; Khaled al-Fahoum, President of the Palestinian National Congress, and Abdel-Muhsin Abu Maizar, official spokesman of the PLO Executive Committee.



Ali Bhutto

### PALESTINIAN DELEGATION IN KARACHI FOR TALKS WITH PAKISTANI OFFICIALS

An official PLO delegation arrived in Karachi on February 8, for talks with Pakistani officials on the fate of former Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was recently sentenced to death and whose appeal has been rejected.

The Palestinian delegation delivered a personal message from Yasser Arafat to Pakistani President General Dia al-Haq in this regard.



PLO leadership receives U.N. delegation

### PLO LEADERSHIP MEETS U.N. UNDERSECRETARY GENERAL

U.N. Undersecretary General Brian Urquhart, special envoy of the U.N. Secretary General, met with the Lebanese government and with the PLO leadership on 12-13 February 1979 to discuss ways of implementing UN Security Council Resolution 44. In his talks with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, the U.N. Undersecretary General reviewed the situation in South

Lebanon and in the Middle East as a whole. Discussions centered on how the Lebanese authorities and the PLO can cooperate with the

U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to implement resolution 44, despite the obstruction of Israel and its puppet militias in Lebanon.

The meeting was attended by Abu Hatem, Head of the Fateh Foreign Relations Office and member of the Revolutionary Council, Shafiq al-Hout, Director of

the PLO office in Beirut, Abu Jafar, Director of Political Department in Beirut, and Brigadier Abu al Walid, Director of Central Joint Operations Room of the Joint Forces. Fateh Central Committee member Abu Jihad attended a part of the meeting.

The U.N. was represented by General Erskine, James Jonah, Samir Sanbor and one of General Erskine's assistants in South Lebanon.



## PALESTINE NOTES



*Hungarian - Palestinian cooperation: Farouk Kaddoumi shaking hands with Secretary General Istvan Sarlos*

### PALESTINIAN - HUNGARIAN TALKS RESULT IN COOPERATION AGREEMENT

In response to an invitation by the PLO an official Hungarian delegation visited the Palestinian Revolution in Beirut from 30 January to 2 February 1979, and held successful talks with the Palestinian leadership which resulted in the signing of a Hungarian-Palestinian cooperation agreement. The Hungarian delegation was headed by comrade Istvan Sarlos, Secretary General of the Hungarian National Front and member of the Politburo of the Hungarian Socialist

Workers Party, and included several other leading officials.

In an atmosphere of friendship and mutual solidarity, Arafat received the visiting delegation, and he and comrade Sarlos exchanged points of view regarding the most important tasks facing the PLO and the Hungarian National Popular Front, as well as current international issues.

Comrade Sarlos and Farouk al

-Kaddoumi (Abu Lutf), head of the PLO Political Department, headed their respective delegations in the discussions, which centered on political issues of interest to the two parties, and on bilateral relations.

On the Hungarian side, the talks were attended by Dr. Bela Kovars, Secretary General of the Hungarian Peace Council; Gobor Gobolyos, who is responsible for international relations in the National Front;

Istvan Kuzman, Secretary of the National Front, and the Hungarian Ambassador in Beirut. The Palestinian delegation included Abu Saleh, member of the Fateh Central Committee; Majed Abu Sharar, Secretary of the Fateh Revolutionary Council; Abu Hatem, member of the Fateh Revolutionary Council and responsible for foreign relations in Fateh; Abu Jaa'far, director of the PLO Political Department in Beirut; Omar al Shaka'a, responsible for relations with the socialist states in the Political Department; and Abdallah Hijazi, the PLO representative in Hungary.

At the end of the talks a joint communique was released. Excerpts from the communique follow:

"Both parties pointed out that the Camp David accords violate international law and contradict the interests based on the establishment of a comprehensive political settlement favourable to the peoples of the area, and contradict all UN resolutions related to the settlement of the Middle East crisis. In its efforts to achieve a separate peace between Egypt and Israel, the U.S.A. is striving to increase its influence in the area to the detriment of the Arab peoples.

"Both parties condemned Israel's aggressive policy, its insistence on continuing its occupation of Arab territories, and its hindering the exercise by the Palestinian people of their national rights. In this context, the two parties saluted the steadfastness and struggle of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, and pointed out that the Lebanese right-wing forces, in complicity with Israel, are striving to increase tension, so as to destroy the Lebanese state and crush the Palestinian resistance against Israel. They also strongly condemned the intensifying Israeli aggression against Palestinian camps and Lebanese territories, and the criminal and terrorist acts aimed at



*Hungarian delegation visiting Palestinian refugee camp in Beirut*

liquidating Palestinian leaders.

"The Hungarian side expressed its great esteem for the struggle waged by the PLO, side by side with the anti-imperialist forces in the Arab world, towards the achievement of a just peace in the Middle East, the consolidation of the unity of the Arab progressive states, and towards increasing cooperation with the Socialist states which support the Arab people's just cause.

"The Hungarian side also expressed support for the political program adopted at the last session of the Palestinian National Congress, which aims at fortifying the Palestinian people's unity.

During their stay, the Hungarian delegation visited the SAMED Institution, where they were received by its director Abu al-Ala'. After that

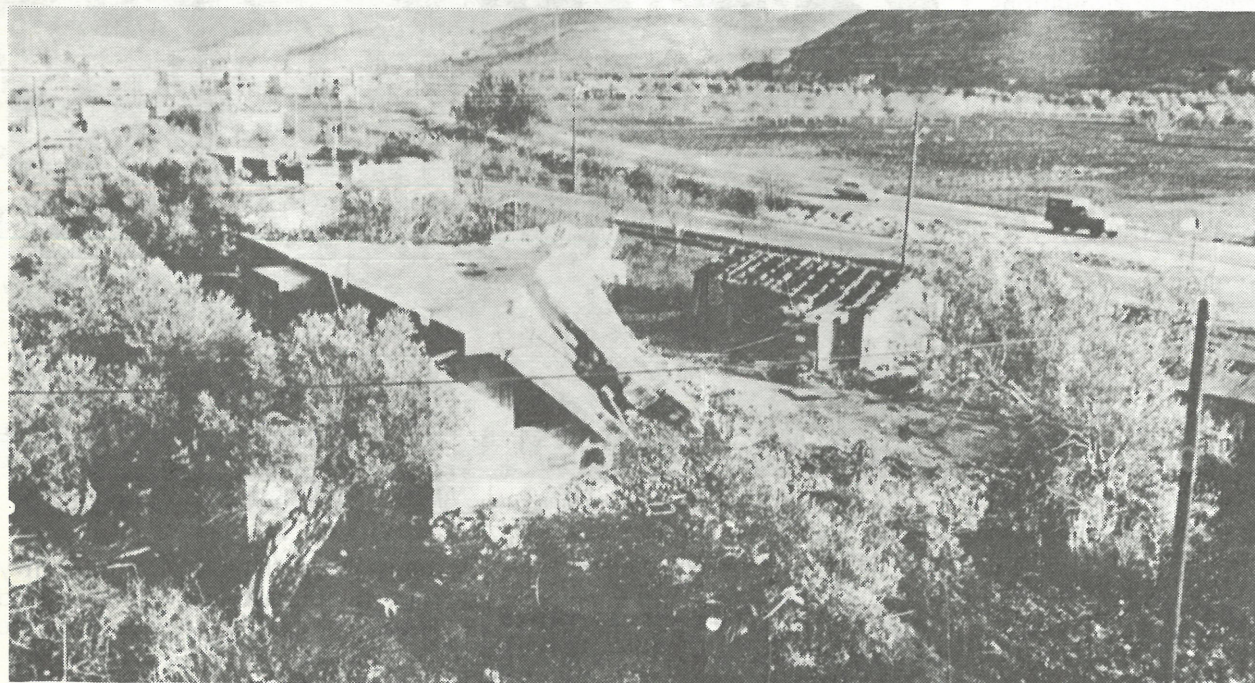
they visited the SAMED carpentry and handicraft workshops, and expressed their appreciation of the products.

The visiting delegation also visited Souq al-Gharb school which is dedicated to the children of the Palestinian martyrs. The delegation was received by the educational staff, and was informed about the cultural and intellectual achievements of the Institute.

In another visit to the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, the delegation was received by its chairman, Dr. Fathi Arafat, and several staff doctors. The guests inspected all the wards in the Acre, Lydd, Nablus and Gaza hospitals of PRCS. The delegation also visited the Shatila camp, where they inspected one of the nurseries which was founded there by Fateh.



# NEW WAVE OF REPRESSION TO CRUSH GROWING RESISTANCE IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES



Blowing up civilian dwellings — part of Zionist terror tactics in occupied territories

During the last two weeks the Israeli occupation authorities have stepped up their terror measures against the Palestinian masses in the occupied territories. Hereby, Israel demonstrates once more its blunt breach and neglect of all international conventions and law.

The occupied West Bank witnessed Israeli reprisals in an attempt to confront mounting Palestinian resistance. Arrests, demolition of houses, curfews and deportation were used to counter the Palestinian national tide which is sweeping over the whole of occupied Palestine.

On 29 January, Israeli troops raided the village of Abu Dis, 3 km from Jerusalem on the Jericho-Jerusalem road, and imposed a curfew on the village. The Zionist troops blew up four houses and placed several villagers under house arrest. Moreover, the Israeli forces encircled the village from all sides and used machine guns and explosives to terrorize the population.

One of the houses belonged to Ahmed Daoud Abu Hilal, who was arrested on charges of carrying out eleven commando operations. The Israeli forces imposed a total information blockade on Abu Dis

in order to suppress any information exposing Israeli crimes committed against the village's inhabitants. Children and women from Abu Dis were taken to Jerusalem hospitals, suffering from the physical and psychological effects of the Israeli raids against the village.

## COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT, MORE HOUSES BLOWN UP

On the same day, Israeli forces blew up four houses in the city of Nablus and the surrounding region. The destroyed houses belonged to Yousef Ashour, from the Ras

Al-Ain district, who was charged with smuggling explosive charges through the Haifa port to Issa al-Shakhshir and Yousef Omar. Shakhshir and Omar were both charged with carrying out commando operations.

These terroristic Israeli measures represent an increase in Israeli repression directed against Palestinians. Observers see that the Israelis are again bulldozing houses of Palestinian suspects and threatening patriotic Palestinian militants with banishment. While cynically breaking all international regulations governing the rule of

militarily occupied territories, the Israeli occupiers refer to the colonialist "emergency regulations" illegally imposed in 1948 during the British Mandate.

Under these regulations, the British army chief of staff, or a regional commander, assumed the power to detain a suspect indefinitely without trial. Among the 161 separate laws included in the regulations are powers to issue deportation orders and to impose collective punishment such as curfews and demolition of houses.

Nowadays, the Israeli authorities consider collective punishment as

as the destruction of houses in that village and the Nablus area.

The demonstrators built barricades in the city's streets, and threw stones at the Israeli forces who attempted to disperse the demonstration. Meanwhile, schools and shops were closed. An atmosphere of anger prevailed in various Palestinian cities and towns, in reaction to the brutal measures taken against Abu Dis village over the past week by the Zionist occupation authorities.

Meanwhile, in Jerusalem on February 1 Israeli forces sealed up two houses belonging to Palestinian



Palestinian masses protest the brutal measures

"one of the most effective deterrents at their disposal. Destroying the houses of a guerilla suspect is a form of psychological pressure."

## VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN RAMALLAH

The bulk of the Palestinian population of Ramallah (20km north of Jerusalem) on January 1979 marched in a demonstration which included students, workers and various other segments of the population, in protest against the crimes committed by the occupation forces during their savage attacks on Abu Dis village, as well

citizens. The doors and windows were closed with cement blocks, and their inhabitants forbidden to reopen them.

One of the two houses, located in Wadi al-Joz in Jerusalem, belongs to al-Haj Tawfiq Abu Zahra who, according to the Israeli authorities, offered shelter to Naser Sa'id al-Effendi, who was arrested during the Israeli attack on Abu-Dis on charges of taking part in commando operations. The Israeli authorities arrested al-Haj Tawfiq Abu Zahra and all the members of his household, including his sister, his daughter and his son. The same measures

were taken against the home of another Palestinian citizen from the al-Tur area in Jerusalem, on charges of offering shelter to Tawfiq al-Khatib, whom the Israeli forces arrested during their attack on Abu Dis last Thursday, on suspicion of carrying out commando operations.

## CURFEWS AND ARRESTS

On 8 February 1979, *Agence France Presse* reported from Jerusalem, that the Israeli military government for the West Bank, for the second time within two days, imposed a curfew on the Palestinian camp of El-Amri on the outskirts of Ramallah. Occupation troops searched many houses during the night and arrested several students. This follows the wide-spread demonstrations which took place during all the previous days. On 7 February 1979, the military government also closed the secondary school of Ramallah for an unlimited period, a measure imposed for the first time since two years. Arrests were carried out in the Palestinian refugee camp of Jalazoun, on the Ramallah-Nablus road, where also a curfew was imposed.

## "HARD-LINE" POLITICS FLANKING CAMP DAVID

According to *AFP*, sources close to the Israeli military government hinted that the new measures were part of a re-named "hard-line" policy aiming to prevent new demonstrations. All Palestinian manifestations were to be crushed also with view of renewed Israeli-Egyptian negotiations for a separate "peace" treaty trying to suppress the rights of the Palestinian people.

In spite of all Zionist mass terror practices, the Palestinian masses inside and outside the occupied territories are determined to cling to their legitimate representative, the PLO, whatever the sacrifices. They will escalate their resistance until they achieve their goals of an independent state in their national homeland, Palestine.



# ISRAELI REPRESSION AGAINST ARAB STUDENTS



*Relegated Palestinian students at Jerusalem press conference*

Since the establishment of the Zionist entity, the Zionist authorities have thought that by applying brutal, racist measures against the Palestinian Arab masses in occupied Palestine, the Zionist state could assimilate those Palestinians and separate them from their Arab and Palestinian environment. But the Palestinian masses under Zionist occupation have repeatedly proved that they are an integral part of the Palestinian people, and that only the PLO is their legitimate representative.

Recently, six Palestinian students at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem issued a statement in which they expressed their support for the PLO and the Palestine National Congress, which was meeting in Damascus. The students also confirmed that Hebrew University officials collaborate with the Israeli security forces to repress legitimate student activities. The response of the Israeli authorities has been to confine these students to their home villages, all located in that part of Palestine occupied by the Zionists in 1948 and to force them to report twice a day to the police. This is also to prevent them from continuing their university studies.

## DEPORTATION

In an attempt to frighten further Palestinians who assert their Palestinian national identity, the Israeli Military Governor for the West Bank signed a deportation order against another student on 29 January 1979. The student, Riad Abu Awad, is a graduate of Bir Zeit University. At the same time four representatives of the Arab Student's Progressive National Movement in Israeli universities held a press conference in Jerusalem, where they confirmed their support for the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. They also condemned the confinement of the six Hebrew University students to their villages. In addition, the Student Movement condemned the "self-rule" project which the Israeli authorities are trying to implement on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and demanded the establishment of a secular democratic state in Palestine in which Arabs and Jews can co-exist peacefully.

Meanwhile, the Arab-Israeli Students' League, said in a communique that they condemn the Israeli measures against the Arab students and that the League will fight with all its strength to

secure freedom of opinion for the Arab students.

Following these moves by the progressive Jewish and Arab students, the Israeli authorities desperately tried to suppress the repercussions of the incidents, which reveal the growing strength of Palestinian national feeling among the Arab students in Israeli universities. The president of the Arab Student Council at Bar Elan University, Mazen Nassar, was attacked by the university's security officers while he was distributing student union literature. The Israeli officers then called the police and frontier guards, who detained Nassar for six hours without charging him.

Adherents of the Likud party and the Gush Emonim movement, along with other Israeli right-wingers, gathered and tried to beat up four Arab students who were on their way to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The Israeli right-wingers called for the expulsion of the Arab students from the university and tried to disrupt an Arab ceremony which was due to take place at the university.

## ZIONIST PROVOCATEURS REBUFFED

On February 1, the president of

the fanatical Jewish Defense League, Rabbi Meir Kahane, led some Israeli students from Haifa University in a provocative anti-Palestinian campaign designed to intimidate the Palestinian students. Kahane, who is infamous for his provocative and racist incitement of Israelis against Arabs, said: "The Arabs in Israel are like a time bomb in the body of the state. There is no such thing as Palestine."

Kahane's visit provoked clashes

between Zionist students on the one hand and progressive Israelis and Arabs on the other. Several Arab students were injured as a result. The Zionist students also attempted to attack the Secretary General of the Arab student union at Haifa University, Issam Makhoul.

dents recently signed a petition calling for freedom of speech and the confrontation of all provocations against Arab students. The petition said:

"We are Arab and Jewish students with different political views and involved in serious and scientific discussions at the University. We oppose all provocative actions aimed against any one group of students, and oppose the imposition of political criteria for the



*Zionist plain cloth police attack Jewish girl protesting expulsion of Arab Palestinian students*

acceptance of students to the University."

## HAIFA UNIVERSITY TO TRY FIVE ARAB STUDENTS

The 800-strong group of Arab and progressive Israeli students at Haifa University finally managed to silence Kahane and his followers, who were forced to leave the university premises.

These Arab and progressive stu-

dents recently signed a petition calling for freedom of speech and the confrontation of all provocations against Arab students. The petition said:

The Zionist newspaper *Ma'ariv* recently reported that the administration of Haifa University has decided to bring five Arab students to trial following clashes between Arab and Zionist students during a lecture delivered by Jewish Defence League head Meir Kahane at the University in early February.

## G.U.P.S. SOLIDARIC

The Executive Committee of the General Union of Palestinian Students in Beirut issued a communique regarding the expulsion of a number of students from the occupied territories.

The communique exposed the escalation of Israeli policies of repression against Palestinian students and citizens, in an attempt to crush the popular struggle and popular allegiance to the PLO.

The communique further condemned the Israeli authorities' decision to expel students from Bir Zeit University, and to impose forced residence on six of them under the cover of the emergency regulations.

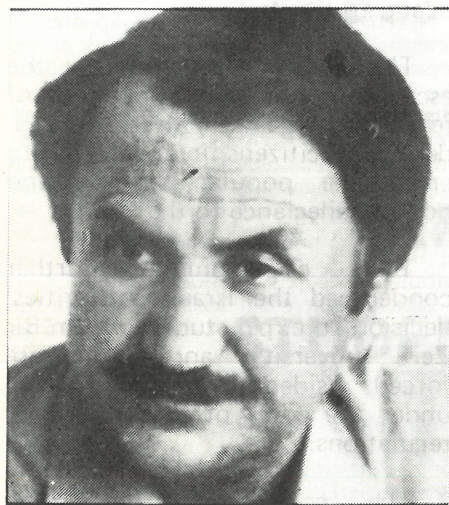
The communique confirmed that all Israeli measures will fail in the face of popular struggle, and that victory will ultimately be achieved.

The protests of Arab and democratic students against Israeli occupation practices reveal the racist character of Zionism. These events also tear off the false mask of "democracy" which Israel wears while preventing Palestinian Arab students from expressing their views regarding their people's destiny and their legitimate representative, the PLO. Whatever brutal measures Israel applies against Palestinian students, the latter will neither give up their struggle nor abandon their political views. Repressive Israeli measures will always fail to suppress Palestinian national feeling.





## OCCUPATION DIARY



Nablu's Mayor Bassam al Shaka'a

### ISRAELI PUNITIVE MEASURES AGAINST NABLUS MAYOR

The Israeli Military Governor General summoned the Mayor of Nablu's, Bassam al Shaka'a, on February 8 and informed him that new measures would be taken against him and against Nablu's, because he defied the Governor's orders and attended the National conference held in Hebron last Friday.

Shaka'a was in fact prohibited from leaving the West Bank and from transferring any of the Arab donations put in the Arab Bank in Amman in the name of the Nablu's municipality.

The Israeli authorities further warned Shaka'a of more serious measures if he were to violate the orders of the Military Governor General another time.

### NABLUS LEUMI BANK MANAGER'S CAR SET ON FIRE

The car of the manager of the

Bank Leumi branch in Nablu's was set on fire on February 8, while it was parked at al-Hussein Square in Nablu's. Israeli security forces consequently surrounded the area and arrested several Palestinian citizens for their alleged connection with the incident.

### MORE ISRAELI SENTENCES AGAINST PALESTINIAN YOUTHS

The Israeli authorities continue to sentence Palestinian Druze youths for refusing to join the Zionist military service, and dozens are reported in military prisons. The last ten persons sentenced by military courts on similar charges are: Muhammed Muhanna, sentenced to seven months' imprisonment; Sameh Asad Bakriyah, to six months' imprisonment and six months' suspended sentence; Nimer Saleh Ramadan, to four months' imprisonment and six months' suspended sentence; Mazen Youssef Sweif, to four months' imprisonment and six months' suspended sentence; Yasser Said Kheir, to three months; Samir Suleiman Hissawi, to 35 days; Muhammed Saleh Batoul, to 35 days; Saleh Fares Kheir, to 35 days; and Salem Naim Kheir, to 21 days.

In Nablu's, a military court on 21 January 1979 sentenced Wigdan Abdel Ghani Al-Sirawi to four years' imprisonment and three years' suspended sentence, on charges of resisting the occupation and participating in the 1975 demonstrations.

The same court sentenced a student, Zuhda Fayiz Freiteh, to three years' imprisonment on charges of affiliation with the Palestinian Revolution.

Also in Nablu's, a military court

on 29 January sentenced Abdel Karim Fayyad al Fayyad to five years' imprisonment, two of them effective and the rest suspended, on charges of affiliation with the Revolution and resisting the occupation. The same court sentenced Samir Muhammad al-Khneifu to four years' imprisonment, one and half years of which will be effective and the rest suspended.

The same court meanwhile continues the trial of Youssef Izatt Amer from Kafr Qallil, whose house was demolished by the Zionist occupation authorities one week ago.

### PALESTINIAN PRISONERS CONTINUE STRIKE IN RAMALLAH PRISON

The strike declared by Palestinian prisoners in the Ramallah central prison, in protest against their inhuman treatment by the Israeli authorities, has already entered its tenth month, with the prison administration refusing the demands of the prisoners. The Palestinian prisoners demand that the beating and humiliation of the prisoners be stopped, and that the frontier guards who participate in maltreating the prisoners be prevented from doing so. They also demanded that prisoners who fall sick as a result of their imprisonment should receive medical treatment, particularly the chronic cases that require treatment by specialists.

The Palestinian prisoners further demand the improvement of their living conditions in the Ramallah jail, and particularly a decrease in the number of prisoners per cell (each one now contains an average of seventy persons); for the right to supervise the preparation of their own food; and for the right to

receive books and newspapers, as in other prisons.

The Palestinian prisoners also demand that their relatives not be harassed by the authorities during visiting hours, and that they should be allowed to correspond with their parents and relatives.

### LANGER CALLS ON WORLD PUBLIC OPINION TO SAVE PALESTINIAN DETAINEE

The progressive Israeli lawyer Felicia Langer recently sent messages to the International Red Cross and the Human Rights League in which she exposed the miserable state of the Palestinian

detainee Ismail Abu Salameh, who is serving a life sentence in the Israeli Asqalan prison, and who was subjected to savage torture. Langer has called on these organizations to save Abu Salameh's life.

In her message, Langer stated that during her visit to the 25-year old Abu Salameh in his prison cell, he told her about conditions in the jail where 17 prisoners are crowded into a small cell, food is insufficient and prisoners are often drugged in the guise of punishment.

Langer concluded her message by demanding that these international organizations intervene to help the prisoner Ismail Abu Salameh and to save his life.



## INCREASING ZIONIST CONCERN ABOUT "ISRAELI" ARAB POPULATION

The Arab population of the Galilee region, in the northern part of 1948-occupied Palestine, has grown by 9,000 people while the Jewish sector of the population has diminished by 1,000, and now equals 50,000 people. These facts have been admitted by Israel Koenig, the Zionist prefect of the region, according to a report carried by Agence France Presse on February 6, 1979. Koenig has become notorious for his racist politics, which he expressed in a report three years ago. In this report he put forward a series of proposals on how to keep the Arab Palestinian population uneducated, how to reduce their living standards and how to pressure them to leave the country.

Northern Galilee, with about 580,000 inhabitants, contains a great part of the Arab population of "Israel," i.e., that part of Palestine occupied by the Zionists in 1948. Arabs constitute about 15 percent of the overall Israeli popu-

lation. According to Zionist sources and studies, northern Galilee may by 1992 have a considerable Arab majority, unless 250,000 new Zionist settlers are moved to the area.

### GROWING NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS

The growing unrest and national consciousness among the Israeli Arabs living in 1948-occupied Palestine was also expressed in a meeting on January 20, 1979, of the "Committee for the Defense of the Arab Land." 28 Arab mayors and three deputies of the Rakah party gathered in Nazareth and approved a resolution in which they declared their support for the PLO's aim of establishing an independent state. They also expressed their solidarity with the struggle of their countrymen in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, and declared their opposition to "occupation, annexation and colonialist settlements."

In another development, the Israeli military government in the occupied West Bank has prohibited Dr. Hamzeh Natche, a member of the Palestinian National Congress, from participating in a press conference organized by the "Committee for a Just Peace Between Israel and the Arab States". Dr. Hamzeh was temporarily expelled from occupied Palestine by the Zionist authorities in 1976.

### DAYAN THREATENS

Apart from police repression, Zionist officials have reacted with violent threats to these developments which, they say, are "threatening the existence of the state of Israel." In late January, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan went so far as to threaten the Arabs living in Israel. "Remember 1948," he said — a clear reference to the time when Zionist Israel drove the greater part of the indigenous Arab population from their land and homes, turning them into refugees.



## OCCUPATION DIARY

### HEBRON NATIONAL CONFERENCE



*Palestinian national gathering in occupied Palestine*

The Palestinian nationalist forces in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip organized a national conference in Hebron on February 4, 1979, to study the situation of the Palestinian people under occupation. At the end of the conference they issued a communique confirming once again their absolute rejection of all capitulationist settlements, including the Camp David accords, the Israeli policies of destruction of houses, confiscation of land and desecration of holy places, and the establishment of new Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories. The communique also confirmed the necessity of restoring Palestinian national rights, under the leadership of the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, the PLO.

The communique, which was signed by the representatives of the various religious bodies, chambers of commerce, syndicates, associations, mayors, municipal council members and other Arab officials, confirmed that the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron is in its entirety an Islamic holy site, and can therefore only belong to the Muslims, and the communique absolutely rejected all Israeli acts of desecration against this holy place.

The communique went on to confirm the real intentions of the Israelis, who aim to strike at the Palestinian people and their existence. It listed their various acts of hostility, including settlement plans in the occupied Arab territories, land seizures, complete destruction

of Arab villages such as Yalo and Amuras; the destruction of whole Arab districts in Jerusalem, the banning of construction over large areas of Arab-owned land and the fencing off of other areas to prevent citizens from returning to their homes, as in the case of Hebron, Nablus, al-Bireh, Ramallah, Selwad, Beit Jala, Beit Sahour, and other villages.

The communique once again reaffirmed the Palestinian people's rejection of all capitulationist solutions, including the Camp David accords and the attempts to impose the so-called "self-rule" scheme in occupied Palestine. It also stressed the Palestinian people's national rights of return and self determination, under the leadership of the PLO. The communique moreover denounced Israeli policies of aggression, particularly those perpetrated against the municipalities, and which include the dissolution of municipal councils, the replacement of some of their members and depriving the municipalities of their privileges, as in the case of Beit Jala, Jericho, Jenin and other towns and villages.

The communique then denounced the detention and torture of Palestinian citizens, the lack of medical care in jails, the imposition of administrative detention, and the destruction of the homes of detainees, all of which represent violations of international conventions. The communique finally urged the international community to take a positive role in supporting the rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people, and in putting an end to all repressive measures.

Meanwhile, Tewfiq al-Toubi, speaking on behalf of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, called on the members of the Knesset to urgently look into the Israeli measures of demolishing houses in the occupied West Bank, stressing that such measures are acts of revenge and punishment, which contradict all international conventions.

## MILITARY OPERATIONS

### PALESTINIAN COMMANDOS DESTROY JENIN ZIONIST LABOR EXCHANGE

#### No 16/79:

Acting on the orders of the general command of the forces of the Palestinian Revolution, a group of Palestinian commandos operating inside occupied Palestine at dawn on Wednesday, January 31st, 1979, planted a number of timed incendiary charges inside the Zionist Labour Exchange in the centre of Jenin.

At around 7:30 the next day the charges exploded, destroying a large part of the office. Consequently, Israeli troops encircled the area and intensified their patrols and checkpoints in the city, arresting dozens of Palestinian citizens in the process. Our commandos nevertheless returned safely to base.

### COMMANDO OPERATIONS IN HERZLIYA AND RAMAT GAN

#### No 17/79:

Palestinian commando strike units, operating within the occupied territories on February 2, placed a timed explosive charge beneath an Israeli vehicle parked in front of an official building in Herzliya settlement, north of Tel Aviv.

The charges went off on schedule, completely destroying the vehicle, injuring several bystanders and severely damaging the building facing the site of the explosion.

The Israeli radio admitted the

operation 24 hours later, but did not mention the damage caused by the blast.

#### No 18/79:

On February 3, several incendiary explosive charges were placed by commandos belonging to special unit G in a residential building for new settlers in the Ramat Gan settlement, south of Tel Aviv. The blast of the explosion was heard all over the residential area, and caused a fire on the first two floors of the building, injuring an unspecified number of Israelis, although Israeli radio only mentioned two wounded. The blast completely destroyed one of the apartments, and caused severe fire damage to several other apartments.

The area was immediately



### ISRAEL ADMITS INCREASE IN COMMANDO OPERATIONS, ARREST OF OVER 1600 PALESTINIANS IN 1978

The Israeli Military Governor General, General Benyamin Eleazar, stated in an interview with Israeli T.V. on February 1 that Palestinian commando operations against targets in the occupied territories have increased recently. He attributed this to the general desire of Palestinian youth to join Palestinian commando organizations.

General Eleazar also stated that throughout 1978, the Israeli authorities arrested around 1600 Palestinian citizens on charges of threatening security, and 20 others for affiliation with the Palestinian Revolution.



# ZIONIST EXPLOITATION OF PALESTINIAN LABOUR AND RESOURCES



Palestinian peasants uprooted from their land are turned into wage labourers exploited by Zionist capital

The exclusivist and oppressive nature of Zionism does not lie only in its ideological and political dimensions. Nor have its practices been confined to the dispossession and expulsion of the Palestinian people, the settlement of their land and the denial of their national rights to independence, liberty and self-determination in their homeland. From the inception of the Zionist state in 1948, along with these forms of national oppression, the Palestinian people under occupation were subjected to more subtle but equally harsh Zionist practices: the harnessing and exploitation of Palestinian labour and resources for the building of the Jewish state.

It is one of the sadder ironies of the Palestinians' experience that after the Zionist movement had expelled them from their land and then settled it, the original owners and inhabitants were soon forced to make their living by working their own land as wage labourers for the Zionist settlers. A Palestinian writer, Elias Shoufani, recounts precisely how this happened in the region of his own native village of Ma'alaya in the Upper Galilee region of northern Palestine. The Jewish Agency wished to encourage the growing of tobacco by the new

Jewish settlers in the area, so an incentive was offered.

"But these settlers did not cultivate tobacco which required great and continuous effort. So they instead relied on some Arab peasants who did not own land. The Zionist settler would provide the land, insured for a small sum paid to the 'Keren Kayemeth' (the Jewish National Fund Agency responsible for administering Zionist controlled land), which according to its regulations did not allow land under its control to be rented by non-Jews. In return, the Arab peasant would provide the hard labour, and the two parties would split the harvest. The settler would sell his part to the cigarette company, according to law, and thus receive his first payment. The Jewish Agency would then pay him an equal sum as a subsidy. It happened in Ma'alaya as in other nearby villages, that the collective (Moshav) land was originally the property of the Arab peasant from whom the occupation authorities had expropriated it and then handed it over the care of the Keren Kayemeth..." (*Sh'uun Filastiniyyah*, November 1978, pp. 109-110).

## TRANSFORMATION OF PALESTINIANS INTO WAGE LABOURERS

The transformation of a large sector of Palestinian peasants into wage labourers working for the Zionist settlers has meant that in those parts of Palestine occupied in 1948 alone, peasants have declined from about 75 per cent of the population in 1948 to 25 per cent of the population today. A similar process also took place in the West Bank and Gaza. Whether or not this forced transformation of a significant sector of the Palestinian people under occupation into cheap wage labour was a conscious part of Zionist occupation and settlement strategy is not relevant here. (The founder of Zionism, Herzl, did offer an idea of what position the Arabs might have in a Jewish state before the Zionists succeeded in "spiriting (them) across the border". "If we move into a region where there are wild animals to which the Jews are unaccustomed — big snakes, etc. — I shall use the natives, prior to giving them employment in the transit countries, for the extermination of these animals." (*Diaries*))

In effect, the Zionist idea was that there should be no place for Arabs in the exclusively Jewish state. But when that state was created and a sizeable Arab minority remained inside its borders, the Zionist ideals of Jewish labour building the state were soon discarded. Arab labour was cheap, available and willing to perform the menial jobs that Israeli Jews came to shun.

In those parts of Palestine occupied in 1948, more than 50 per cent of the Palestinians there were eventually forced to find employment outside of their own villages and towns, since these Palestinians had lost some 40 per cent of their lands. This was not only due to the loss of land but also to the availability of work in the Jewish areas and the rapid increase in Arab population. By 1968, out of a work force of some 76,000, 35.6% worked in agriculture, 20.6% in construction, 16.0% in industry, 13% in services, 7.9% in commerce and banking etc., and 6.7% in other fields. Compared to the Jewish population, Arabs are more heavily concentrated in peasant and proletarian occupations (see MERIP Reports, No. 41).

The occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip opened up numerous possibilities for economic expansion that the Israeli economy has been quick to exploit. This is due to two principal aspects of the relation between the Jewish state and the Palestinians under military occupation. The first of these is the objective situation of the West Bank: full of cheaply

obtainable resources, especially human ones; geographically close to Israeli economic centers; in its relations with Israel displaying, in general, the relations of a region of low income and with a labour surplus to a capital-intensive, high income region. The second point is the political nature of the Israeli occupation and the economic advantages it offers to the occupier, including the relative 'closedness' of the area's markets to almost all economic relations other than those with Israel, the prohibition of Palestinian union activities and the corresponding monopoly power of the employers to dictate wages in the relations between Israel and the occupied territories: exploitation of resources and domination in commodities trade, and the exploitation in the labour market.

## ZIONIST EXPLOITATION OF RESOURCES AND TRADE

Israel has 'economically' occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip in three principal ways. Under the Likud programme, priority is given to the idea of replacing indigenous Palestinian productive activities and capacities with extensions of the settler state. The rapidly growing Zionist settlements in these areas are engaged in a variety of advanced agricultural and technologically superior industrial projects. Secondly, Israel has succeeded in monopolising the occupied territories' import and export markets. Thirdly, Zionist investors have established or supported various productive concerns in the 'territories', directing production to their own interests and those of the Israeli economy.

## EXTENSIONS OF THE SETTLER STATE

The settlements planned and those already existing in the territories occupied in 1967 constitute the infrastructure of the Zionist settler economy in those areas. They are solely linked to Israel, at least insofar as all their produce is geared to and channelled through the Israeli mother economy.

"To help make these settlements more economically viable, the Likud government is embarking on an intense programme to emphasise cash crops which produce high export earnings and to attract industrial investment to them. The hill terraces of olive, almond and fig trees are giving way to more citrus fruit cultivation. New melon fields are being set up by settlers in Gaza and subsistence crops are being replaced by the hot house cultivation of carnations, gladioli and tomatoes.

"...In the West Bank, new industrial sites have



been established at Maale Ha Adumin, Kiryat Arba, Atarot, Elazar and Maale Ephraim. Smaller factories and workshops, mainly to produce metal goods have also been set up at Hamra, Mehola, Kfar Etzion and Mekhora... New defence industries are to be added to the settlement at Maale Ha Adumin" (*Events*, 5 May 1978; — for a full catalogue of the economic bases of settlements in the occupied territories, see 'Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Territories', *Journal of Palestine Studies*, No. 29).

Such exclusively Jewish economic activity in the occupied territories has by no means been isolated from the local economies. On the one hand, many peasants who have lost their land or who do not have the resources to compete with the more advanced Israeli means of production are being increasingly employed by the settlements. More ominous than this, though, is the Zionist exploitation of the water resources of the West Bank for settlements there and in other parts of Palestine, including the Negev Desert.

### THE POLITICS OF WATER

In the latter case, the headwaters of the Jordan river have been diverted by Israel to furnish agricultural projects in the Negev. Perhaps the 'desert will bloom', but only at the expense of turning large tracts once green and fertile Palestinian land into barren wasteland. In recent years, the needs of the industrial and agricultural projects of the settlements have caused a large number of wells to be dug near more shallow traditional wells feeding Palestinian villages. This has meant a drastic fall in the water level of the West Bank, the drying up of the Palestinian wells, and the consequent forcing of the villages to be connected to the settlement's water system. Two such villages,

"Bardala and Tal al Baida have already lost their water. Other villages are threatened. Farther south in Awja, for instance, an Israeli well has been dug next door to a natural spring; it is only a matter of time, the experts say, before the spring goes dry. Nor is it only villages: the



Israeli occupation troops on roof of Arab grocery in Hebron

town of Ramallah, for instance, has lost its main source of water — the spring at Ain Samiya — and is now largely dependent on Jerusalem for its water supply." ("The Politics of Water on the West Bank, reprinted in *Journal of Palestine Studies*, No. 28, pp. 175-7).

The case of these villages was further explained by an official of an international relief organisation to a Congress Subcommittee (reprinted in *Journal of Palestine Studies*, No. 28, pp. 177-9):

"The people of Tal al Baida and Bardala do not wish to become dependent upon the Israeli water authority (Mekorot) or an Israeli settlement for their water. The villagers view with suspicion a settlement which was built in part on land confiscated from their villages and whose pump has now nearly eliminated their own source of water... "Mekorot's advance knowledge of the potential impact of the Israeli wells suggests that the settlement authority has been and remains very much aware of how such settlements affect their surrounding environ-

ment. The response is to allow the neighbouring villages to take water from Mekorot — in exchange for forfeiting their own rights. Such fine distinctions are not lost on the people of Bardala and Tal al-Baida..."

### TRADE: UNEQUAL EXCHANGE

The predominant aspect of the commercial relations between Israel and the Occupied Territories is that concerned with the trade in commodities. As with most less developed regions in the world, the West Bank and Gaza Strip are at a disadvantage with any trading partner, being primarily producers of agricultural goods and importers of manufactures. And with trade since 1967 closed to Egypt and seriously restricted to Jordan and the Arab east, Israel has become the prime channel for trade. While "an increasing share of exports went to the Israeli economy, either to be consumed in Israel or to become part of the Israeli export trade..., the West Bank and Gaza Strip have provided an expanded, protected market for Israeli products, and by virtue of the Israeli tariff barriers, consumers in the two territories find their access to overseas commodities limited." (B. Van Arkadie, "Economic Impact of Israeli Occupation", *Journal of Palestine Studies*, No. 22, p. 111)

Practically, Israeli policy in the occupied areas has aimed at tailoring their production and consumption to Israeli needs. This has been achieved on the one hand by encouraging and subsidising production of agricultural inputs for Israeli industry and produce for the Israeli internal or overseas market. Exports to Israel of competitive agricultural produce is restricted. High protection levels put Palestinian producers in a very difficult position as regards competition with Israeli sources of supply. On the other hand, Israel has not only penetrated the occupied territories' market but has flooded it with a wide variety of Israeli products cheaper than overseas imports because of the high Israeli import tariffs. Thus, as imports from Arab countries (over the bridges) decreased from I.L. 25 million to I.L. 16.2 million between 1969 and 1974, in the same period, imports from Israel increased from I.L. 187.4 million to I.L. 1121.8 million. "During the period from June 1967 to June 1974, Israel acquired a huge trade surplus with the West Bank and Gaza, totalling I.L. 2.155 billion. This resulted from the rapid growth of Israeli exports to the territories... In 1973, the West Bank and Gaza obtained 90% of their total imports from Israel, while Israel only obtained 2% of its imports

from them. And while the West Bank and Gaza exported to Israel agricultural products and labour intensive light industrial goods, they imported from Israel capital intensive products." (Jamil Hilal, "Class Transformation in the West Bank and Gaza", *MERIP Reports*, no. 53, pp. 9-10). This relation of unequal exchange and the importance that the occupied territories have gained in Israeli economic strategy is driven home by the following simple figure: In 1975, the value of Israeli exports to the U.S.A., traditionally its main economic partner, was I.L. 307,790 million; the value of exports to the West Bank and Gaza was I.L. 366,178 million, thus making those areas the main importers of Israeli goods. (Hussein Abu Naml, *The West Bank and the Strip, Between Annexation and Integration, 1968-78*, P.L.O. Research Centre and SAMED, Beirut, 1978.) Though the U.S. in 1976 to its usual role as Israel's biggest export market, the territories now absorb almost 20% of Israel's total exports (*The Middle East*, April 1978, p. 109).

This makes it even clearer why, security and historical-religious reasons aside, Israel is keen on maintaining a tight grip on the West Bank and Gaza, be it through continued occupation, 'self rule' or otherwise.

### EXPLOITATION OF INDIGENOUS INDUSTRY

The third main channel Israel maintains to control the productive capacities of the West Bank and Gaza Strip is through its direction of the development of Palestinian industry. On the whole this sector has remained relatively small, and this has not been helped by the Israeli policy of influencing Arab industry towards serving as a subsidiary to Israeli industry. Israeli capitalists have been keen on sub-contracting local small factories and workshops, emphasising more advanced technology sectors such as plastics, electronics and chemicals. Others have invested directly in local industries: "As a result of these developments, many enterprises became dependent on the Israeli market or the world capitalist market. Exports of industrial products to Israel from the occupied territories increased from IL 138.3 million in 1968 to IL 659.4 million in 1973." (J. Hilal, *Class Transformation*, *MERIP REPORTS* No. 53, p. 10).

The obvious disadvantage in this form of industrial growth, besides the evolving dependence on Israel, is the effect on traditional Palestinian industries and manufacture. Such indigenous potential is being ignored, if not consciously eliminated. "The more traditional industries, like textiles, food processing, tobacco



and beverages as well as the smaller workshops owned by Palestinians are suffering from a lack of investment, and from the competition of Israeli imports." *Events*, May 5, 1978, p. 39) The new Likud economic policy has threatened future Arab investment and Palestinians are forced to look outside Palestine for capital outlets. But as Van Arkadie points out (*Journal of Palestine Studies*, No. 22, p. 111), "The additional, and possibly the most serious, long term cost of the trade pattern to West Bank and Gaza Strip business is the loss of the opportunity to develop markets outside Israel. While the open bridges policy has maintained a flow of trade across the River Jordan, this has been of diminishing relative importance to the local economies."

#### EXPLOITATION OF LABOUR

There is no doubt that the most blatant form of manipulation employed by the Zionist state in its relations with the Palestinian people under occupation is that related to the vast labour force provided by those areas. Except for a period early in the occupation in which Israeli unemployment was high enough to discourage large-scale employment of Palestinians, the region has witnessed a dramatic growth in Palestinians employed as wage labourers in Israel. From 20,000 wage workers employed in Israel in 1970 from the occupied territories, the

number grew to a phenomenal 66,500 in 1974 and in 1977 leveled off at 65,000. The 1974 figure represented 51.5% of all wage workers of the occupied territories. In 1975, the wage workers of the occupied territories represented 62.5% of the total active population of 207,000. In the same year, of those wage workers employed in Israel, 54.5% were engaged in construction, 18.5% in industry, 15.5% in agriculture and 11.5% in other occupations. (All figures come from the *Statistical Abstract of Israel* for the relevant years as well as *Administered Territories Statistic Quarterly*, Israel Central Bureau of Statistics.) An important statistical observation to be made is that these figures only cover those workers officially registered and thus thousands of illegally employed workers push up the 'real' estimate.

Statistics, however much they reveal the quantitative aspects of Palestinian economic dependence on Israel, fail to explain the nature and conditions of the work engaged in and its value to the Zionist state. They do indicate the concentration of the Palestinian working population in heavy, unskilled work. Also, it can be seen from the statistics that the Palestinian work-force is increasingly being drawn into employment in the economy of Israel, rather than that of their own areas. Other statistics are often used by Zionist propagandists to show the increase in income that Palestinians have gained from this employment. But such arguments to rationalise or defend the occupation ring hollow when two important facts are remembered. First, though Israel experienced an average increase in prices between 1968 and 1975 of 313.1%, the West Bank and Gaza in the same period were much harder hit in so far as the average increase was 367.4% for the former and 452.7% for the latter! Most important here is the fact that the Palestinian worker receives on the average only half of what an Israeli receives



"Cheap labour" for the colonisers: Palestinian workers wait to board the buses which take them to work in Zionist working sites



for the same work. (The daily average for 1973 was I.L. 22.9 for a Palestinian and I.L. 42.8 for an Israeli). So much for the 'prosperity' of Palestinians under occupation.

Yet, "discrimination against Palestinian workers from the occupied territories is not limited to wages. It extends to social and medical insurance as well. The Israeli state deducts up to 40% of the Palestinian worker's wage for these insurance funds — considerably more than is deducted from an Israeli worker's wage. While the Israeli worker enjoys many benefits such as paid holidays, medical insurance and retirement benefits, the Palestinian worker has no right to any benefits at all. The Palestinian worker is thus forced to pay a large tribute to the Israeli state, over and above the surplus value extracted by the Israeli capital. Israeli sources suggest that the total of this tribute exacted in the period 1968-74 is no less than I.L. 1.09 Billion." (*Jamil Hilal*, *Class Transformation*, ibidem, p.10-11)

As mentioned, no statistics can describe how the Palestinian working population is herded into Israel every morning at 3 a.m. in crammed buses for a journey of anywhere between 3-6 hours after selling themselves to the Israeli or lackey Arab 'boss'. Others remain in huts illegally overnight or locked in warehouses in Israel. Thus with an average daily wage of about

\$6.50, and transport costs up to \$4.00, for those who cannot save on their daily transport, little is left over to feed large families. This has led to the increased employment of women and young children, all in order to maintain the level of 'affluence' that the Israeli occupation has brought to the Palestinian people. Of course, Palestinians are barred from Israeli trade union membership and though some local unions exist, they are powerless in the face of the pervasive effect of the Zionist economic and repression system. Over the years, these conditions in the occupied territories have led to a massive emigration of Palestinians in search of better employment in the oil-rich Gulf states.

After more than 11 years of occupation, the Palestinians of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip remain, not unlike the Oriental Jews, cannon fodder for the continued growth and expansion of the Zionist state and its militaristic economy. The importance of this sector of the Palestinian people to Israel should not be underestimated as the Israeli occupation is gradually becoming a de facto annexation, if not integration. The day when the Zionist state as we know it today decides or is forced to consider withdrawal from any part of Palestine will be the day when that territory has been exhausted and bled dry of its natural, material and human resources.



## G.F.T.U.:

# MILITANT ORGAN OF PALESTINIAN WORKING CLASS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES



Exploited Arab farm labourers

The Zionist occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip created a very dark situation for the Palestinian working class, due both to the racist Zionist aim of swallowing Arab land and establishing more Jewish settlements; and to the subjugation of the Palestinian working people and transforming them into exploited wage labourers. This policy is embodied in the linking of the economy of the occupied territories with the Zionist economy, and its effect of damaging and freezing the economy of the occupied territories. This also is shown in the Zionist policy of robbery and impoverishment directed

against our people through the high level of prices and through haphazard taxes; and the transformation of thousands of farmers into unskilled wage labourers in the Zionist labour market, while pressing thousands of technicians and intellectuals to immigrate outside. In addition, Zionist apartheid and repression politics deny to Palestinian workers any legal protection or medical and social security.

These inhumane conditions urged the Palestinian working class through their trade union organizations and their participation in all forms of struggle against the usurping occupiers, to assume a more advanced militant role among the various popular strata that struggle against the occupiers, and to realize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and their working class interests. (For historical background about the Palestinian trade union movement, refer to "Palestine" Vol. 5, No. 1, January 1979).

### THE WORKING CLASS STRUGGLE UNDER ZIONIST OCCUPATION

After the Israeli occupation of West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967, the General Federation of Trade Unions (G.F.T.U.) in the West Bank was established including the following unions:

#### Nablus:

- Construction workers union
- Institutions employees union
- Bakery workers union
- Drivers union
- Printing house workers union
- Tailors union
- Medical stores and pharmacies workers union

#### Tulkarem:

- Institution employees union

#### Jenin:

- Institution employees union

#### Ramallah and Al-Birah:

- Construction and institution workers union

#### Bethlehem:

- Municipality and public institution employees union

#### Hebron:

- Textile workers union
- Carpentry workers union

But in the part of Jerusalem occupied in 1967, which is in a unique situation after being annexed by Zionist Israel, Arab workers are prohibited from joining trade unions outside the Histadrut (the Zionist trade union federation). Nevertheless, there are constant attempts to protect and reinforce existing true unions, and to establish new ones. There exists the union of workers and employees of the Jerusalem Electricity Company which consists of 392 members and is an assistant member of G.F.T.U. There is also the printing workers union. Others, such as the restaurant and hotel workers union, construction workers union and the union of shoe-makers are going to be established.

The West Bank trade union structure is modest relative to the large number of West Bank workers whose jobs are in Israel (over 70,000 workers).

The limited number of workers in the trade

unions is due to Zionist terror and persecution, and the absence of laws to regulate relations between the workers and Zionist firms and contractors inside Israel. Another reason is the weakness of class consciousness among workers, especially the majority of those who have been uprooted from the land and forced to work on construction sites, farms, restaurants, and coffee shops, with only 10% of the Palestinian working class working in the industrial sector. In addition, the workers are facing all kinds of physical and psychological exhaustion, due to the long distances between home and work, conditions which lengthen the working day to 12-14 hours. Blame also rests on the forms of spoliation, discrimination and oppression inherited from the time of Jordanian Regime.

### WORKER'S DEMANDS

The G.F.T.U. of the West Bank has struggled to improve the working conditions of the working class, but the achievement in this field do not benefit the labourers who work inside Israel without protection against Zionist exploitation. So, union committees have been formed in the work sites to link the workers and their unions. They also represent the workers when contracts are signed, struggling for the rights of the working class such as paid holidays and sick leave, 21 days of annual vacation, and the recognition of 1 May (International Worker's Day) and 8 March (International Women's Day) as official paid holidays.

On the level of social and medical services the trade unions contracted with several physicians

## POLITICAL COMMUNIQUE OF WEST BANK G.F.T.U.

In early December 1978 the Palestinian workers and trade union movement in the occupied territories issued a communique in which the movement confirmed the legitimate leadership of the PLO, and condemned the "self-rule" project and the Camp David accords. Following is the text of the communique:

The Palestinian workers and trade union

movement in the occupied territories recently held a conference at the headquarters of the Ramallah and al-Bireh Construction Workers Union, which was attended by all the workers' unions in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, under the auspices of the General Federation of Trade Unions in the West Bank.

Discussions during the conference dealt with the objectives and consequences of the Camp David agreements, which include the "self-rule" project and its repercussions on the destiny of the Palestinian people and the Arab and Palestinian liberation movements. The participants declared their unanimous rejection of Camp David and of the US role, as well as their confirmation of the following principles:

1. Confirmation of the contents of the communique issued by the General Federation of Trade Unions in the West Bank.



and pharmacies to provide medical treatment and medicine to the union workers for special prices.

At the same time, the Federation of Trade Unions has sought to confront the Zionist policy of high prices and impoverishment by forming "high prices committees" in coordination with West Bank municipalities and chambers of commerce, in order to send memoranda and delegations, and to express various forms of protest against this policy. The Federation also takes part in protest demonstrations against "additional taxes" imposed on West Bank population. Meanwhile, they have established cooperatives to lessen the burdens of the working people.

### THE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

The G.F.T.U. has taken part in the overwhelming national activities that the masses of the occupied homeland have launched against the Zionist occupation and its aggressive plans. Among its political actions is its role in the mass uprisings over all the occupied homeland in recent years. It sacrificed many of its members such as Mahmoud Al-Kurd in Jerusalem, Mahmoud Al-Haj Yassin in Ramallah and Samir Samhan in Nablus. The Federation called for strikes on many national occasions, such as the anniversary of 5 June (the Zionist aggression in 1967) and during the October war of 1973. It has taken part in the confrontation of Zionist plans for expanding Jewish settlements, and expropriation and Judaization of land. It has fought Zionist policies of administrative detention and collective punishment and other



*Growing national and class conscience*

inhuman Zionist measures. In order to coordinate and organize the activities of the working class with the popular masses, the Federation has contributed to the establishment of popular committee in Nablus under the slogan "Against occupation and the high prices policy, for steadfastness and national attachment, and living freely with dignity on the soil of our homeland". The Federation was at the head of the popular organs which adopted the historic decision to recognize the PLO as the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people wherever they are. At the same time, the Federation firmly supports the Palestinian Revolution, and defends it morally and physically during all bloody conspiracies against it, starting with the massacre of September 1970 in Jordan up to the recent imperialist, Israeli and reactionary conspiracy against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples in Lebanon.

rights of the Palestinian people.

5. The participants in the conference reaffirm their rejection of all attempts to implement the "self-rule" plan, and consider all those who approve of it real enemies of the Palestinian people. They also consider the Hebron villages League a form of alternative leadership, which should be opposed.

6. The participants confirm that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

7. The conference reaffirms the resolutions of the Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation conferences and the Syrian-Iraqi National Action Charter. It also calls on Iraq to immediately join the Front, and stresses the necessity of fortifying relations within the Front and forming a strategic alliance with the forces of liberation in the world and with the Socialist camp, led by

One of the major successes of the Federation is its role in the latest municipal elections in the West Bank in April 1976, when the Federation engaged itself in the elections, not only supporting the national lists of candidates but also by naming a number of its union leaders as candidates for the election. All of them won. It was a new phenomenon in the history of the Palestinian working class.

### ZIONIST COUNTER ATTACK

In response to the patriotic activities of the General Federation of Trade Unions, the Zionist occupation authorities practised various forms of terror and repression in order to destroy the trade unions. From the start of the occupation, the Israeli authorities asked them to renew their professional licenses, but the Federation Council refused this request on the basis that the occupation authority is not legal and has no right to issue licenses. But after repeated threats to close the union, the Council asked the occupation authorities to renew their licenses and consequently the authority assigned an Israeli liaison officer to interfere in their affairs.

Meanwhile, the occupation authorities tried to link the trade unions with the Histadrut, but they failed totally. So the authorities persecuted the union leaders, threatening them with jail or expulsion, or the demolishing of their houses. But the response of the union's leadership has been to intensify their existence inside the headquarters of the unions as a challenge to the Zionists to besiege their institutions. Yet, the

the USSR.

8. The Conferees salute the people of Egypt, its working classes and its national progressive movement in their struggle against the Sadat regime.

9. The Conferees demand that the parties to the Baghdad Conference undertake practical steps against the capitulationist policies in the Arab world, led by Sadat.

10. The participants reject attempts by the Jordanian regime to represent the Palestinian people in place of the PLO.

11. The Palestinian working classes in the occupied territories declare that conspiracies can only be foiled through continuous struggle, through organising the masses and achieving national unity within the framework of a national progressive front.



*Palestinian construction worker in occupied West Bank*

Zionist authorities expelled the General Secretary of the G.F.T.U. in 1969, and many others among the leadership of the Federation were either expelled or imprisoned. In addition to this, the occupation authorities censor all speeches given at mass meetings or celebrations like the 1 May, and the workers Bulletin which is published by the Federation.

### CULTURE AND ARTS ACTIVITIES

The Federation worked to make the first of May every year an occasion for popular and national demonstrations, celebrations, poetry evenings and exhibitions of painting and handicraft, in the framework of deep-rooted attachment to the national Palestinian character which the enemy strives to obliterate.

In addition the union's libraries are being expanded and enriched constantly with serious national books and studies which are distributed to the members for self-education and discussions in meetings. Also the unions set up folklore groups, and hold meetings for deepening the medical, scientific and political consciousness among the ranks of workers. Furthermore, they sponsor projects to wipe out illiteracy among the masses.

The struggle of the Palestinian workers in the occupied territories needs to be escalated and developed to serve the interests of all working people, and to wipe out Zionist occupation and achieve the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people. It is urgent to offer every possible physical and moral support to the G.F.T.U. in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in order that it can set up new branches in different cities and villages in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and so it can enlarge its social and economic services to the working class, such as establishing productive and consumative cooperatives, providing work for technical man power, and setting up trade union clinics.

### POLITICAL COMMUNIQUE OF G.F.T.U. OF THE WEST BANK

2. Confirmation of the resolutions of the National Conference in Jerusalem and of the popular conferences which were held in Bir Zeit, Bethlehem and Gaza.

3. Confirmation of the united stand of the working classes in the occupied territories, in their capacity as a leading force in our people's national struggle for the achievement of their rights, including their right to return, to self-determination and to establish their independent Palestinian state, under PLO leadership.

4. The working classes in the occupied territories completely reject the "self-rule" project, which consolidates the Israeli occupation, and does not fulfil the aspirations and legitimate



## ZIONISM IN PRACTICE



Zionist soldier watching Damascus gate of Walled City of Jerusalem

### KOLLEK CONFIRMS PLAN TO JUDAIZE JERUSALEM

The Israeli Mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek, has confirmed the Israeli government's determination to Judaize the holy city. He told a group of Israelis who had previously called for more active measures in this direction that the Israeli authorities have been working for years towards the liquidation of the Arab electricity company's concession in the city of Jerusalem and in other towns of the occupied West Bank, as a step towards the consecration of the Israeli occupation and the ultimate absorption of the occupied territories.

### ARAB GROUP AT UN WARNS AGAINST JUDAIZATION OF JERUSALEM

The Arab grouping at the United Nations recently sent messages to the UN Secretary General and the President of the Security Council, in which it exposed on-going Israeli settlement activities which aim to turn Jerusalem into the unified capital of Israel. The Arab grouping further warned of Israeli pressure on the various states to move their embassies to the Arab section of Jerusalem.

The messages follow a series of intensified contacts by the Arab grouping over the past few days to arrive at the best means to expose and foil the Israeli plan to Judaize Jerusalem.

### ISRAELI AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCE PLAN TO ESTABLISH NEW TOWN IN WEST BANK

Among many other similar projects, the Israeli authorities announced a plan on February 7 to establish a new town in the occu-

pied West Bank. Israeli radio said that a Ministerial Committee headed by Ariel Sharon, the Agriculture Minister and head of the Settlement Committee, has approved plans for establishing a new settlement town between Jerusalem and Hebron. The town, which will be called Afrat, will be built as an expansion of the Gosh Etzion settlement which the Israeli authorities had agreed to enlarge last November.

The radio added that Sharon has already obtained the agreement of several ministers to start the expansion of Gosh Etzion, and that one hundred Jewish families from America are already preparing to move to Afrat.

In this context the Israeli newspaper *Davar* reported that the Israeli Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs has decided to begin construction work on the new town immediately. *Davar* added that the proposal for the establishment of the new town was made by former Israeli Minister of War Shimon Peres; and that according to the present plan, work will start in the next few days for the building of hundreds of residential units in the new town. The paper further said that the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs also approved, on 7 February, the decision to provide medical aid and transport facilities for the Gosh Imonim settlement in the occupied West Bank.

*Ma'ariv* meanwhile said that Afrat will be larger than the Alon Shobot settlement, which houses 250 families, and will include religious centres and educational institutions for Jewish students coming from abroad.

### NEW ISRAELI STEPS TO ANNEX ARAB LAND

On February 9, the Soviet News Agency Novosti analyzed the Israeli draft law calling for the transfer of all foreign embassies from Tel-Aviv to Jerusalem, and commented on the establishment of a number of new Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

The editorial said that the Israeli government proposed to the Knesset a law calling for the transfer of all embassies from Tel-Aviv to Jerusalem, which Israel considers to be its capital; and that Israeli government institutions would consequently only deal with those embassies which comply with the law. Observers consider this newly proposed draft law, in addition to the on-going expulsion of Palestinian Arabs from the West Bank and the establishment of new military settlements in the occupied territories, as further proof of Tel-Aviv's determination to go ahead with the annexation of all occupied Arab territories. Novosti added that these steps confirm Israel's defiance of the international community and its violation of UN resolutions regarding Jerusalem and the Palestine question. It said that despite Washington's and Tel-Aviv's repeated assertions that Israel wishes to achieve a peaceful settle-

ment in the Middle East, the Israeli authorities are going ahead with the colonization of occupied Arab land and with the expulsion of all its citizens in an organized fashion.

### DRUZES CONVICTED OF 'INSUBORDINATION'

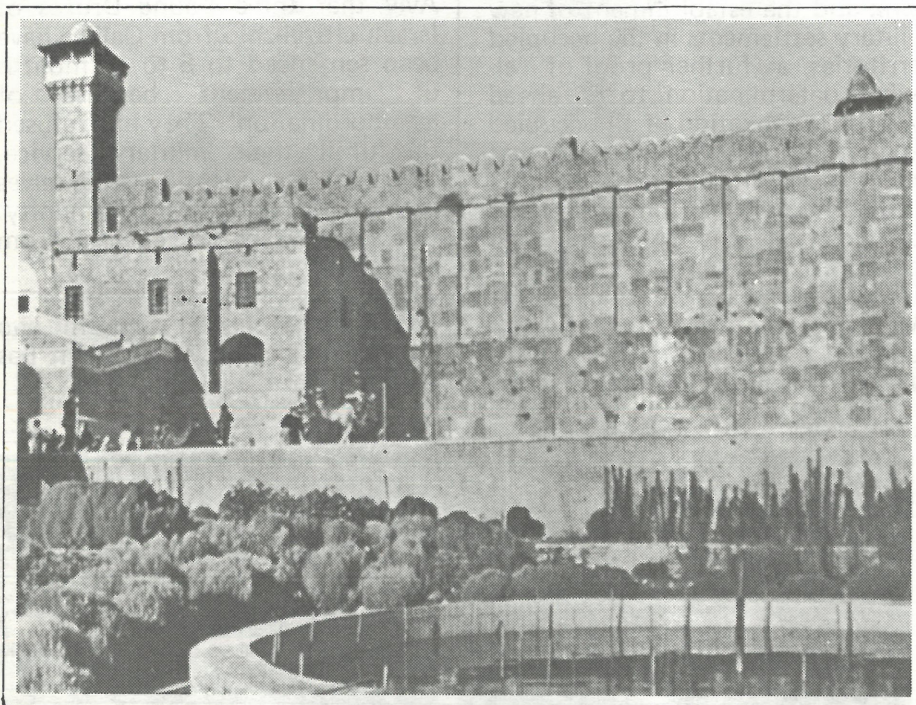
"Agence France Presse", on 5 February 1979, reported from Tel Aviv that three young Druzes of Israeli citizenship from Galilee have been sentenced to 5 to 18 months of imprisonment because of 'insubordination'. They had refused to fulfill their military service, because they identify themselves with the Arab Israeli community. ("Israeli" Arabs are exempt from military service).

It is the second time in two months that such an incident has taken place.





## HALT JUDAIZATION OF IBRAHIMI MOSQUE



*Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron desecrated by Zionist settlers*

The Higher Islamic Council in Jerusalem issued the following appeal on February 3 to Arab, Muslim and world public opinion about the profanation and Judaization of the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron on the occupied West Bank. Ibrahim (Abraham) is revered by Islam as the patriarch of all prophets.

"Ever since the occupation of the West Bank in June 1967, Israeli profanation of the Ibrahimi sanctuary has continued. First the Mosque was divided; then gradually the Israeli measures evolved into taking possession of certain parts of the interior of the Mosque, and the introduction of furniture, tables, bookcases and Jewish religious books. The authorities later on seized Jacob's well and the Mosque's courtyard, then other

parts of the Mosque's interior.

"Every day at the times of prayer, there were new practices such as dancing and the blowing of horns, disturbing the Muslim prayers. The staff of the Mosque was forbidden to enter at times, and the Muezzin was not allowed to call to prayers. Finally a copy of the Koran was torn to pieces and thrown away by Zionist fanatics.

"When the Muslims stood against such policy, the Mosque was closed for seventeen days in 1967; the room of the Chief Custodian of the Mosque was burnt and many of the valuable books and furniture which were kept inside the sanctuary cannot be found, in spite of the successive inquiries in the various departments of the Israeli military administration in the city.

"We have proclaimed several times that the shrine of Ibrahim is a great Muslim Mosque; in fact, it is one of the greatest Mosques, and one which has a significant value to the entire Muslim World. We have denounced and protested against the Israeli authorities' measures and the provocation and aggression of the settlers of Qiryat Arba'. Those responsible for the Mosque's services cooperated with the municipality and the various Arab and Islamic organisations in the city, and protested against such measures to the Israeli Ministry of Defence, but in vain. The Israeli authorities collaborated with the military governors and the extremist groups which deliberately desecrated the Mosque and disgraced all religious precepts.

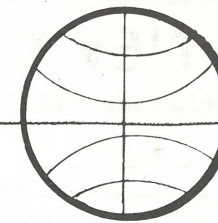
"The mass media recently spread news about new arrangements in the Ibrahimi Mosque, that were imposed by the settlers of Qiryat Arba' on the Israeli Minister of Defence and the Military Governor of Hebron. Those new arrangements are nothing but a new aggression against the Muslim shrine, aiming to turn it into a Jewish temple.

### ARAFAT INTERVENES WITH ISLAMIC BODIES ON JUDAIZATION OF IBRAHIMI MOSQUE

Chairman Arafat, on 3 February, 1979 addressed urgent cables to the Secretary-General of the Islamic conference Karim Jay, and to Sheikh Muhammad al-Harkan, President of the Islamic World League, regarding the latest Israeli infringements on the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron in the occupied West Bank.

Arafat urged the two officials to mobilize the Islamic World and international public opinion in order to put an end to Israeli aggression against Islamic Holy Places, which is part of a systematic and organised plan to destroy Palestine's Arab and Islamic cultural heritage.

## WORLD EVENTS



*Last laughs of the Smith clique*

### RHODESIA ESCALATES RAIDS ON MOZAMBIQUE

The illegal white minority regime of Rhodesia has stepped up a concerted campaign to cripple the economy of Mozambique and stir up opposition against the progressive government of President Samora Machel.

Since early December, attacks have been concentrated in four of Mozambique's 10 provinces. Targets have included a railway bridge on the Beira-Moatye Line, trains, road bridges, gasoline depots and civilian bases.

The Ian Smith clique is also known to be organizing an opposition group called "Free Africa" to sabotage Mozambique's economy. Despite all this, the patriotic people of Mozambique have shown no sign of lessening their support for the patriotic forces fighting to liberate Zimbabwe.

### NO MORE PICNICS FOR SOUTH AFRICAN WHITES

One of the immediate consequences of the ousting of the Shah of Iran has been the implementation of a total oil embargo against

the regime of South Africa and the Zionist state of Israel. Iran under the Shah, contrary to international stipulation, used to supply 90% of South Africa's oil.

The Apartheid regime's Minister of Economic Affairs, Chris Hevnes made public on 3 January portions of the emergency measures that will be taken to save South Africa from total economic collapse. The white minority has been asked to use public buses and trains for transportation, rather than their own private cars. Private car owners have also been asked to spend weekends and holidays at home.

The measures will not affect the African majority, since due to the economic policy of Apartheid, the African majority neither own private cars nor spend their weekends on picnics.

### BELGIAN TROOPS TO ZAIRE

Belgium is sending in paratroops to Zaire "to take part in joint exercises with Zairean troops" according to an official communique issued in Brussels on 6 February. It is the second time in less than a year that Belgium has sent troops to its former colony.

Last May 1,700 Belgian troops were rushed to the Southeast of the country to deal with the popular uprising in Shaba Province. Belgium is known to have a large share in the Sahaba copper mines, where over 1,000 of its nationals run the exploitation of minerals.

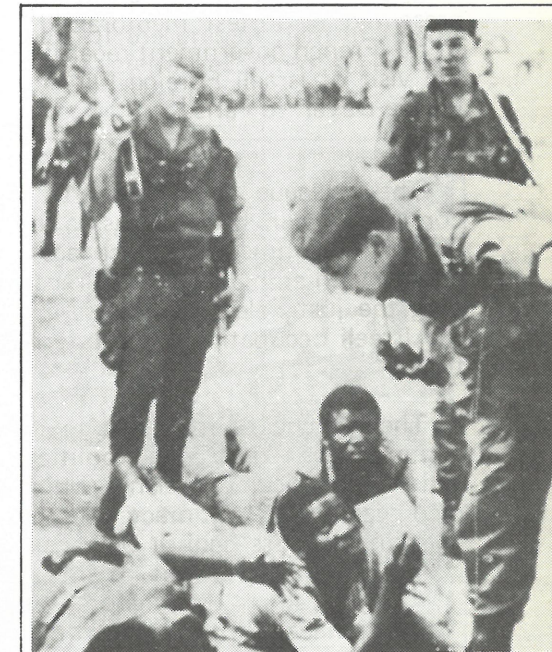
In January this year, Zairean ruler Mobutu sent troops into the Central African Empire to help maintain Emperor Jean in power. After widespread discontent and demonstrations in the country Belgian troops are known to be replacing Zairean troops stationed in the Central African Empire.

### TORTURE LESSONS FOR SAVAK FROM THE CIA

Several reports reached the CIA warning that the Shah of Iran was "thirsty for power" and a "megalomaniac". The reports were rejected because they were considered contrary to the policy of the United States. This was made public by a former official of the American agency.

In an interview with the New York Times on 7 January 1979, Mr. Jesse Leaf, whose office had directed CIA analysis services in Teheran for 5 years, said that CIA experts since the early 1960's have trained SAVAK (Iranian secret service) agents in the arts of torture and interrogation based on CIA knowledge acquired from Nazi tactics during the Second World War.

Mr. Leaf went on to say that "the Shah of Iran himself was one of our information sources" and was in "regular contact with our agents."



*European colonialist troops still invading Zaire*

*Palestine 31*



# SOLIDARITY NEWS



World Peace Council President Romesh Chandra inspecting Palestinian refugee camp in South Lebanon after Israeli air attack

## FRANCO-PALESTINIAN MEDICAL LEAGUE PROTESTS AGAINST DAYAN'S VISIT

On January 30, 1979 the Franco-Palestinian Medical League presented a protest memorandum to the French government regarding the visit of Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan to Paris.

The League also issued a communique in Paris, accusing the French government of once again adopting an ambiguous stand regarding the just Palestinian cause and the Israeli occupation of Arab territories.

The League pointed out in its communique that the political action of a government which recognizes the legitimacy of the Palestinian cause cannot be reconciled with negotiations with an general who has ignored all national resolutions, but rather

by welcoming a PLO delegation headed by Yasser Arafat.

## WORLD PEACE COUNCIL CONFIRMS SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN NATIONAL RIGHTS

On February 5, 1979 the representatives of 92 states participating in a session of the World Peace Council in Berlin reaffirmed their support for legitimate Palestinian national rights. The participants also condemned imperialist-Zionist plots against the peoples of the Middle East, as well as the Camp David agreements between the Zionist and Egyptian regimes.

The participants unanimously adopted a resolution demanding the establishment of a stable and just peace in the Middle East, and stressed that this can never be established without granting the Palestinian people their full national rights.

## PALESTINIAN PHOTO EXHIBITION IN CYPRUS

The Cypriot Committee of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, and the PLO office in Cyprus, organized a photograph exhibition on 9 February at the Soviet cultural center. The photographs exhibited presented a broad spectrum of the struggle of the Palestinian people.

The exhibition was attended by officials of the Cypriot government, including Mr. George Ionnides, Minister to the President, Mr. Huoz Rolandis, the Foreign minister and Mr. Eliodes, Minister of communication and public works in addition to a number of deputies of parliament, as well as ambassadors from Arab and socialist countries.

Mr. George Ionnides, in an opening speech, affirmed the Cypriot people's unwavering support for the Palestinian people and their revolution, under the leadership of the PLO. Moreover, he congratulated the organizers of the exhibition for the opportunity they "offered to the people of Cyprus to see the drama and the struggle of the Palestinian people." He underlined that the PLO, as the representative of the Palestinian people, has extended its support to the struggle of the Cypriot people for national and physical survival, for an independent, sovereign, territorially integral and non-aligned Cyprus. He concluded by stressing that "the struggle of the Palestinian people for justice and the restoration of human rights will eventually come to a successful conclusion."

# AUSTRALIA: ZIONIST ATTACK ON DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

Zionism has been condemned worldwide as a form of racism. But to deceive the world, the Zionists propagate the myth that Zionism equals Judaism. Any mention of Zionist atrocities or any Palestinian demand for basic human rights is defined in the Zionist dictionary as being "anti-Semitic." It is not this article's intention to present the views of the thousands of Palestinian refugees who were thrown out of their ancestral homes by Zionism, which laid claim to Palestine at the beginning of this century and still bombs, shells and terrorizes the Palestinians in the Diaspora.

What is to be pointed out, is the hypocritical, anti-democratic and anti-working class character of the Zionist campaigns being carried out in the West under the guise of combating "anti-Semitism". Zionist activities in Australia illustrate this point very well.

## THE ZIONIST "CONNEXION" IN AUSTRALIA

Zionist finance and pressure groups have a considerable hold over the Australian public. They have suppressed debate on the Middle East question in Australia. They have manoeuvred to prevent legitimate spokesmen of the Palestinians from visiting Australia to put the Palestinian view. They prevented a Palestinian student from studying in Australia in 1976. They have pressured printers and newspapers from publishing anti-Zionist ideas. They operate a private intelligence agency in Melbourne (Research Services, Armadale) to spy on Australians who support the Palesti-

nians. An Australian citizen of Palestinian origin, Fawzi Khalid Ali, was recently detained and tortured in 'Israel'. His tormentors boasted that they had many spies in Australia. Information about Fawzi was possibly supplied by Research Services in conjunction with ASIO and Mossad — the 'Israeli' intelligence service which has agents in Australia. The Zionists are part of the trend that has brought down draconian laws to 'protect' the export of uranium, the Industrial Relations Bureau, the big strengthening of the secret police apparatus in Australia and other developments.

## CAMPAIGN ON BROADCASTING STATION

In order to hold their tutelage over Australian public opinion, the Zionists are consciously promoting that trend in Australia which has already clamped down on freedom of speech by restricting the Australian Broadcasting Corporation even

further, by closing Melbourne's first access station, 3ZZ, and other moves.

Now the Zionists, through their so-called "Jewish Board of Deputies," are pressuring the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal to impose severe censorship on 3CR and ultimately put it off the air.

The Victoria Community Radio 3CR in Australia has been under attack for some time now for its allegedly "anti-Semitic" programs. The Zionists maintain that the radio station, by mentioning Palestinian rights, is broadcasting anti-Jewish material. The "crime" committed by 3CR is that its program "Palestine Speaks" has presented the reality of the Middle East and Palestinian views to the Australian people.

Nothing better illustrates the anti-democratic character of Zionism. Are not the Australian people, by the very nature of their liberal democratic constitution, entitled to hear different viewpoints and opinions? A naive reader might ask why the Zionists are violating the democratic rights of the Australian people in this manner. The answer is simple and obvious: Zionism, being a racist movement, is against the principles and practice of democracy.

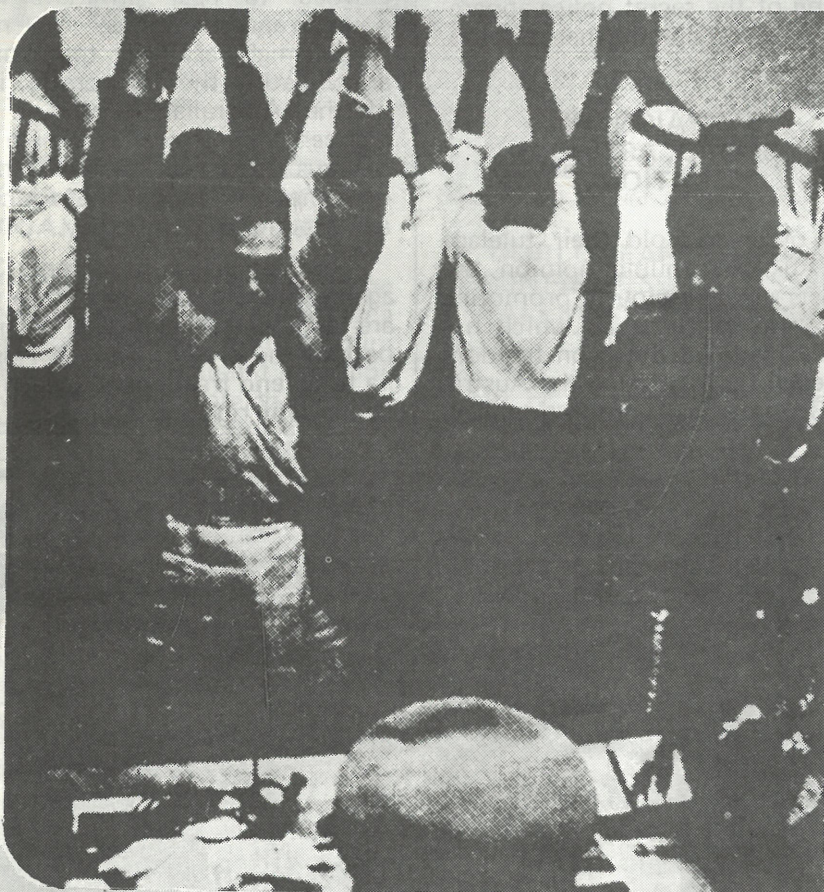
The campaign to defend 3CR against the Zionists, and those who are behind and alongside them, is part of the present fight in Australia to defend freedom of speech and democratic rights as a whole.



Australian people in solidarity demonstration for Palestinian struggle



## FOUZI EL-ASMAR: POEMS FROM AN ISRAELI PRISON



"Reciting poems has not been one of my habits  
But now in prison what else have I to do?"

These captive days I'll spend in writing poems,  
And, singing these, bring nearer the day of freedom."

(Ho Chi Minh)

"Poems from an Israeli prison" is a collection by the Palestinian poet, Fouzi el-Asmar, 40 years old, who was born in Lydda in the part of Palestine occupied since 1948. He is one of the Arab Palestinians who remained in occupied Palestine after the establishment of the Israeli entity in 1948. He was raised by a poor family, and developed a consciousness of the degradation, suffering and discrimination of his own people. Consequently he became an activist, was oppressed, persecuted and jailed. The importance of his poems lies in his experience of political struggle face to face with the enemy, and his daily confrontation with usurpers in occupied Palestine.

Alan M. Dershowitz, a professor of law at Harvard University in the USA, reported after a meeting with Fouzi El-Asmar in December 1970:

"I asked Fouzi why he was detained. He looked me directly in the eyes and said: 'Because I am an Arab.' But there are 300,000 Israeli Arabs, I observed, why are you singled out? 'Because I express the feelings of the 300,000 and that makes me dangerous.'"

Fouzi El Asmar's poems have been published in English by KNOW BOOKS, 340 East 51st Street, Suite 2 G, New York, N.Y. 10022.

## "TO THE BELOVED" HOMELAND

*Night in my cell  
is life still in bud.  
Beloved, you are like the breaking of light,  
Like truth  
Like a song dissolved into longing  
Tearing apart the draped evening  
Wrecking the flow of moans.*

*Beloved,  
The joy of daylight  
embraces the darkness  
in my cell;  
Persistent silence here  
will turn back the blade  
of the swindler, the torturer  
the thief of my childhood dreams  
In the day's heat.*

*Beloved  
In your name  
dusk has touched my forehead  
grey dreams flooded my head  
But my will remains uncowed  
for since I came to manhood  
with my eyelashes  
I have borne your ancient love  
You remain my lighthouse  
And only refuge.*

*Beloved,  
We are here to nurse at life  
Your full breast  
stretches the lightning*

*of hope and will  
It shall flower a new prophecy  
in our souls  
It shall loosen the chains  
and hurl light over our love.*

*Beloved,  
The prison is a brief cloud  
The bitter winds  
of a cold journey  
Which we must accomplish.*

*Our road is wrapped in sighs, tears and thorns  
In all that dark claws can weave  
but our love shall triumph  
At the end of the road.*

*There,  
We shall meet with the sun  
Its rays shall enter every house  
Fill every crack  
Flooding mountains, hills and plains.*

*As I sit in a corner of my dim cell  
lacing the seeds of the little light  
stretching them to these lines for you  
I was struck  
with the joy of a child:  
Beloved,  
With all the might of their hatred  
that tears this life apart  
They forget they cannot put  
my mind in jail.*



**TODAY IRAN**

**TOMORROW PALESTINE**

# Palestine

P.L.O.  
information  
bulletin

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**TWO REVOLUTIONS IN ONE**

