

VICTORY TO THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE



Palestine

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bulletin

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THE TARGET OF ISRAELI TERROR



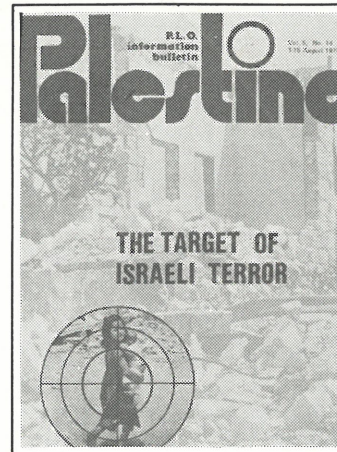
TO OUR READERS

Solidarity is an important weapon for helping the peoples of the world overcome oppression and injustice. The support and solidarity which the Palestinian people receive helps us to continue our just struggle for our just cause. We are grateful for the solidarity and support we get, but although we have many friends around the world, our enemies are still strong and formidable. They are better armed, better equipped, and much wealthier than we.

Nevertheless, though we may possess limited means, our determination and willingness to sacrifice is unlimited. The world forces of liberation, of which we are proud to be a part, are the emerging forces, and it is to us that the future belongs. The forces of oppression have had their day, and shall be consigned to the dustbin of history.

We thank all of our friends throughout the world for the letters of support and encouragement you have sent to us. Surely, we and other liberation movements will continue on the road to victory.

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EDITORIAL

DIALOGUE WITH THE PLO

Until very recently, Western Europe and the United States considered the PLO as either non-existent or as a "terrorist" organization. For them the PLO, and the Palestinian people, were taboo, beneath the level of recognition or dialogue.

While taking this hostile attitude towards the PLO and the Palestinian people, Westerners rarely made independent decisions without consulting their Israeli friends. Or in other words, the Israelis, using their world-wide efficient propaganda machine, did not allow Westerners to act or even think independently. It is here worthwhile mentioning that the real interests of the people of the West lie with the Arab World. Justice in the Middle East conflict is also with the Arabs, namely with the Palestinian people.

Thirty-one years have already passed since the Palestinians were driven out of their country, Palestine. With the support, encouragement and connivance of the West, Israel continued its aggression against the Palestinians and Arabs. The West neglected totally the sufferings of the Palestinians and supported consistently the aggressors, the Israelis. Palestinian resistance to Israeli aggression, occupation, and colonization was labelled by the West as "terrorism."

Nowadays, the world is witnessing a new dawn. The conscience of the West is awakening, or, at least, they can no longer afford to continue supporting the Israeli aggressors, while their interests in the Middle East erode. Western governments have started to realize that promoting Israeli aggression and simultaneously maintaining good economic relations with the Arab World will not work anymore.

The Western European approach to the PLO,

although it comes very late, has been welcomed by the Palestinian people and the PLO leadership, because it can be considered a step forward and a contribution towards a just and durable peace in the Middle Eastern region. But this step is insufficient and needs to be followed by practical steps.

The ongoing turmoil on PLO-U.S. "dialogue" has been exaggerated. U.S. policy is still adopting a hostile attitude towards the PLO. It still pursues the traditional U.S. strategy, which is always on the wrong track, namely to promote all fascist and colonialist forces in the world, like Israel, South Africa and other similar regimes.

The PLO is self-confident that even the U.S. will have to change its Middle East policy. Sooner or later, the U.S. will approach and recognize the PLO. The continuous struggle of the Palestinians and the justice of their cause will push more and more forces to recognize the PLO and its leadership.

The U.S. commitment during the Kissinger era not to recognize or negotiate with the PLO unless it recognizes UN Resolution 242 and Israel's "right to exist" doesn't reflect the current situation in the Middle East. The PLO has emerged as a political and military factor in the Middle East equation, which cannot be bypassed or neglected. Undersecretary of State Harold Saunders' recent statement of the possibility of talking with the PLO — but not recognizing or negotiating with it — shows clearly that the U.S. is still subjected to Israeli-Zionist blackmailing. The U.S. should realize that it cannot continue to take Arab oil and Arab wealth, and to use the Arab world as a marketplace, and still be committed to aggression against the Arabs.

PALESTINE NOTES



ARAFAT ADDRESSES CUBAN DELEGATION

In a speech at a dinner party on July 23 given by the Palestinian Revolution in honour of the Cuban delegation at the Salah Eddine Camp in Damascus, Chairman Arafat declared:

"Before your arrival, I discussed with my colleagues whether we should end the talks with a formal reception. We decide not to, for the relationship between us and the Cuban revolutionaries is much deeper than that. We stand together with them in the same trench, fighting for the same cause and against the same enemy, imperialism, Zionism and colonialism. Although the geographic distance between us and Cuba is great, we feel very close to each other. For just as we are joined in battle here in the Middle East, so are we joined in battle in Latin America."

Arafat added: "In the name of the Palestinian Revolution, the Palestinian people and the Arab Nation, I tell you that the Palestinian fighter and the Lebanese militant will be able to confront the

Israeli military offensive carried out with US made weapons in South Lebanon. "Within this context, the Syrian Air Force is able to confront the Israelis and deliver this small message: "That we will not let the Palestinian or Lebanese fighters confront this conspiracy alone." It is within this context that we tell you, dearest friends of the Palestinian people, and we tell the great Cuban leader Fidel Castro, that Palestinian revolutionaries will remain in the same forward trench fighting against the imperialist challenge led by the U.S. which directs Israel in the area, and Sadat in Africa and is moving the Sixth, Seventh and soon the Fifth Fleet in to the region to encircle it, in an attempt to scare us.

"But I tell you, in the name of our guns and the revolutionary will, that we pledge to go on confronting the conspiracy and the conspirators. We will face all these enemies who are not only enemies of the Palestinian people, or the Arab Nation, but enemies of all humanity, and enemies of all free, honest and progressive men in this world. Arafat added: "Let Israel create as much trouble as it wants, they threatened us with a hot summer, but we threaten them with an even hotter summer."

"I reiterate that the Palestinian people will remain with the Cuban people in the same trench, together until victory."

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL CONFERENCE DENOUNCES ISRAELI PRACTICES

Talal Naji, member of the PLO Executive Committee and Head of the PLO delegation to the International Cultural Conference, which was held in Geneva from 5th to 14th July, praised the positive and important resolutions adopted by the Conference concerning the Pa-

lestine cause, and the participants' denunciation of Israeli practices against Palestinian citizens and their continuous modifications and distortions of the educational programmes in the occupied territories. Naji also referred to the importance of the Conference's resolutions regarding UNRWA's arbitrary policies.

Mr. Naji described the Conference as an important opportunity to expose the dangers of the Camp David accords and their repercussions on education in the occupied territories. He added that the Conference also presented an important opportunity for the PLO, which is an observer-member, to achieve political and educational gains. The PLO delegation, he said, briefed the 132 participants, who represent various international educational organizations and institutions, on the just struggle of the Palestinian people against Israeli practices, especially in the fields of culture and education.

Naji confirmed that the Conference adopted special resolutions concerning the Palestine cause. He mentioned the following two resolutions:

1. The International Conference and all organisations concerned, specifically UNESCO, stress the necessity of improving programs and activities for the provision of better educational opportunities to Palestinian children.

2. The Conference calls on UNRWA to refrain from decreasing its social and educational services to Palestinian refugees and to resume its normal services.

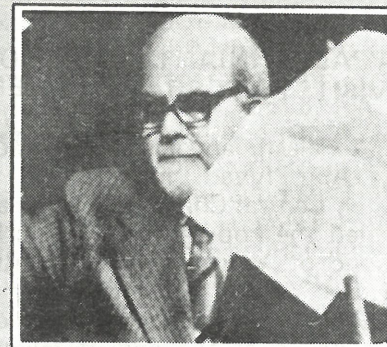
SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL TO INVITE ARAFAT TO LISBON NEXT NOVEMBER

Norwegian Socialist leader Reiulf Steen said in an interview on

July 20 that most of the delegates to the current conference of the Socialist International fully support the action of Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt in meeting Chairman Yasser Arafat in Vienna. Steen said: "The existence of the Palestinian people could not be denied, and the PLO represents it." Israeli sources at the conference said that there would be a proposal to invite Arafat to the next conference of the Socialist International in Lisbon in November, according to an Israel Radio announcement on July 20.

KREISKY CONFIRMS: "NO PEACE WITHOUT PALESTINIAN STATE"

Austrian Chancellor Bruno



Tarazi: Palestinian national rights

PLO ASKS FOR SECURITY COUNCIL CONFIRMATION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

The PLO asked on July 27 the UN Security Council to help the Palestinian people return to their homeland. The PLO observer at the UN Security Council, Zuhdi Tarazi, stated that the Council is obliged by law, and has the ability to regain Palestinian national rights, including their right to return to their homeland. The UN Security Council recently met for the second time in a month to discuss Palestinian national rights.

Kreisky rejected on July 18 all suggestions that his recent meeting with Chairman Arafat had been organized at the request of the United States. "Reports spread by certain circles which say that the meeting between Arafat, Willy Brandt and myself was staged by the Americans and that we acted as American agents are utterly untrue", Dr. Kreisky told a press conference.

"I happened to talk to the American Ambassador Milton A. Wolf the day before the meeting and I told him about it, because I did not want him to learn it from the newspapers", Dr. Kreisky said.

Dr. Kreisky said there were now many more people in Israel than ever before who were in favour of peace talks with the PLO. "World opinion has been very positive about the meeting, which was useful, important and will eventually serve a good aim", Dr. Kreisky said. Dr. Kreisky also said that he was convinced that peace in the Middle East could only be achieved after the establishment of a Palestinian State in Gaza Strip and the West Bank region. "A solution of the problem will be possible only after the Israelis have withdrawn from occupied territory and agreed to a Palestinian State in Gaza and the West Bank region", Dr. Kreisky reiterated.

CHAIRMAN ARAFAT'S MEETINGS AND RECEPTIONS

Arafat received on July 13 the Pakistani Ambassador in Beirut with whom he discussed the current situation and the latest developments on the local, Arab and international levels. Arafat also received on July 13 the Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon and transmitted an important message to the Soviet leaders on the current situation in the Middle East. He also received

the Cuban ambassador to Syria in his office in Damascus where the Ambassador handed him a message from the Cuban leaders.

Chairman Arafat met on July 14 with the Ambassador of the People's Republic of Korea to Lebanon, who delivered to him a message from the Korean President Kim Il Sung, which included an invitation to the PLO Chairman to visit Korea. Arafat sent a cable of solidarity to the President of the People's Republic of Korea on the occasion of the month of solidarity with the Korean people.

Chairman Arafat also received on July 14 the Charge d'Affaires of the German Democratic Republic's Embassy in Lebanon who delivered to him an oral message from Chairman Erich Honecker.

Arafat met on July 18 with Imam Shirazi and several Shiite religious leaders from South Lebanon. Both sides discussed the continuous Israeli aggression on South Lebanon.

Chairman Arafat met with the Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon Alexander Soldatov, who delivered to him a letter from the Soviet leadership on July 21. Arafat sent a cable of congratulations to the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Unified Polish Workers' Party, Comrade Edward Gierek, on the 35th anniversary of the People's Republic of Poland. In his cable, which was also addressed to the Polish government and people, Arafat said: "The Palestinian people are proud of their friendship with your people who have over the years proved their firmness in the struggle for the liberation of Poland and the building of their socialist state."

Chairman Arafat attended on July 19 a dinner banquet given by the PLO Unified Information at the Fateh Foreign Relations Office in

PALESTINE NOTES

honor of Comrade Alexei Golobev, Soviet Deputy Minister of Higher Education who arrived in Lebanon on July 16 to visit the Society of Palestinian and Lebanese graduates from USSR universities.

Arafat attended on July 20 part of the press conference organized by the Central Committee of the Lebanese Communist Party. He made a short speech in which he saluted the Lebanese Communist Party in the name of the PLO, the Executive Committee and the Palestinian people and revolutionaries. "We consider the Lebanese Communist Party a strong and firm supporter for the Palestinian Revolution and the democracy in this region, as well as one of the pillars of our struggle against imperialism and Zionism", Arafat said. He also said that we all stand in one trench not only in defence of the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese National Movement, the progressive forces and the Lebanese people, but also in defense of freedom and democracy in our nation, against the neo-imperialist invasion led by the U.S.

TITO RECEIVES KHALED AL FAHOM

Yugoslav President Marshal Josef Broz Tito received on July 19 Khaled al-Fahom, President of the Palestinian National Congress, in the presence of the President of the Yugoslav People's Council, and of the PLO representative in Yugoslavia, Ibrahim al-Khatib.

Fahom handed Tito an important letter from Chairman Arafat. After the one-hour meeting, Fahom declared in Belgrade that the participants discussed the overall situation in the Middle East and the obstacles facing a just settlement.

The Yugoslav President reaffirmed the support of the Yugoslav people for the Palestinian people's



Arafat meets with Deputy Minister Golobev and Soviet educational delegation

rights, including the right of self-determination. He also renewed Yugoslavia's support for the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Fahom added that the participants discussed the importance of the forthcoming Havana Non-Aligned Summit and the solidarity among Non-Aligned countries to oppose Zionism, colonialism and imperialism.

FAROUK KADDOUMI CONDOLES VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST PARTY

On behalf of Fateh, Farouk Kaddoumi recently sent a cable of condolences to the Vietnamese Communist Party on the death of the Vice President and member of the Central Committee of the Vietnamese Communist Party and expressed the Palestinian people's sharing of grief with the Vietnamese people.

A PALESTINIAN DELEGATION VISITS DEMOCRATIC YEMEN

A Palestinian delegation headed by Abu Iyyad, member of the Fateh Central Committee, officially visited the Popular Democratic Republic of Yemen at the invitation of the Yemeni Socialist Party on July 19-21. A joint communique was issued at the end of talks. It said: "The Yemeni Socialist Party delegation, headed by Anis Hassan Yehya, member of the Politburo and Secretary of the Central Committee, reiterates its full support for the Palestinian people's just struggle to regain their legitimate rights in Palestine." Both sides, the communique added, confirm that the main target of the Palestinian people is to establish an independent Palestinian state on their soil in Palestine. The Yemeni side stressed the necessity of an effective Palestinian national unity within the framework of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. "This unity should be based on the political and organisational pro-

grams adopted by the Palestinian National Council", the communique said.

Both sides also condemned the so-called Sadat-Begin peace treaty which is part of a series of imperialist-Zionist-reactionary conspiracies against Arab interests, especially the interests of the Palestinian people. They also confirmed that the U.S. is the main enemy of the Arab Nation and that ties should be strengthened with the Soviet Union to foil all these conspiracies. The conveners have also condemned all attempts to liquidate the Palestinian resistance and denounced the self-rule scheme in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian delegation expressed its satisfaction with the current developments in Yemen as well as its solidarity with the Yemeni people's struggle to achieve a pan-Yemeni unity.

ARAFAT RECEIVES CABLES OF SUPPORT

Chairman Arafat received a cable of support from Humayed Abu Bakr Jalloud, Secretary General of the Arab Workers Unions and the International Federation of Arab Workers Syndicates, following a meeting held by the Arab Office for the Education of Workers in Damascus between the 22nd and 24th of July. The cable expressed support for the Palestinian Revolution in its confrontation with daily Israeli attacks against Lebanese villages and Palestinian camps in South Lebanon.

Arafat also received on July 26 a cable from the Administrative Council of the General Union of Jordanian Students on the occasion of the union's second session in Damascus. The cable condemned continued Israeli attacks on South Lebanon and confirmed the union's firm stand with the national and progressive Arab forces, struggling to foil the imperialist and reactionary conspiracy.

The cable also said the "union considers itself one of the militant factions of the armed Palestinian Revolution and a basic supporter of

it." It, finally, confirmed that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Arab Palestinian people.

ARAFAT MEETS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ARAB LEAGUE

Yassir Arafat met with the Secretary General of the Arab League, al-Chazli al-Klibi at his office in Beirut on July 24. During the meeting, Arafat continued the discussions started between Klibi and Farouk Kaddoumi, Head of the PLO Political Department regarding political developments in the Arab area, particularly South Lebanon. Klibi expressed the Arab League's readiness to exert all its efforts and potentials towards supporting the Palestinian cause and the PLO on all levels. While in Lebanon, Klibi, called for support of the Palestinian and Lebanese people's struggle in their confrontation of the war of annihilation launched by the Israeli forces against Lebanese villages and Palestinian camps in South Lebanon.

Klibi has also said that the Palestinian armed struggle must be supported politically, diplomatically and militarily. He said the Arab countries must draw up a united strategy on South Lebanon, Lebanon as a whole and the Palestinian question. "Immediate help must be given by the Arab peoples to Leba-

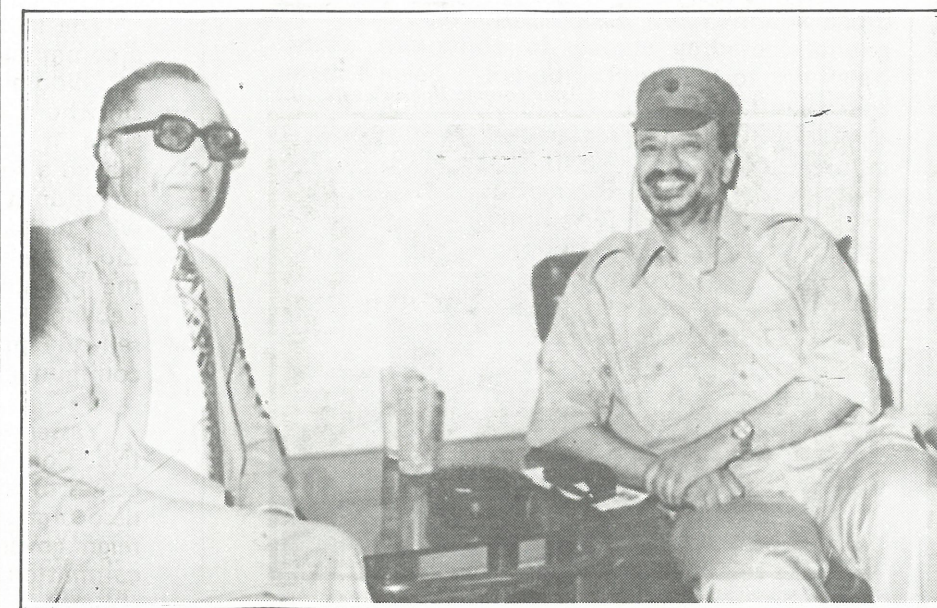
non because the Lebanese people in the South are suffering a state of extreme injustice and tragedy", Klibi said.

The Secretary General of the Arab League praised the Kreisky-Brandt-Arafat recent meeting in Vienna and described it as a great political step, which allowed Arafat to place the Palestinian cause in the European arena.

ABU MAZEN MEETS TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

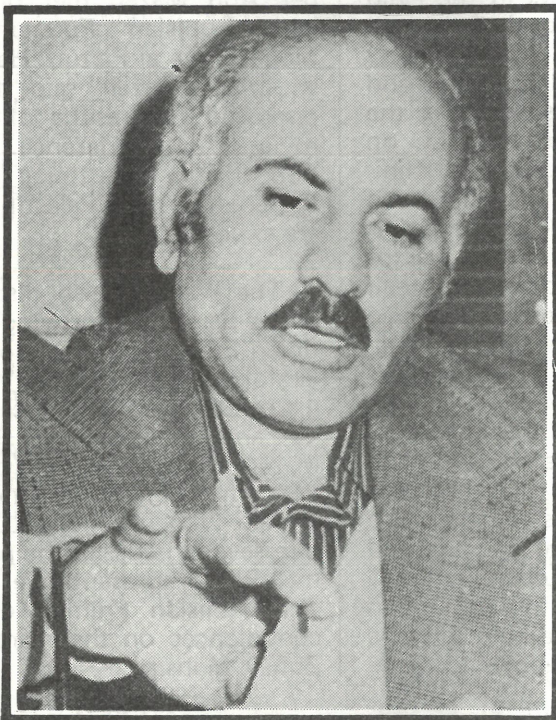
Fateh Central Committee member Abu Mazen met on July 24 with Tunisian Foreign Minister Mohammed al-Faituri Hakam Bala-wi. Abu Mazen said they have discussed the results of the Monrovia OAU Conference, the situation of the Palestinian cause and the pressures the Palestinian people are exposed to.

The meeting also discussed the possibilities of improving the Palestinian-European relations after Arafat's recent visit to Vienna and his meetings with Chancellor Kreisky and Chairman Brandt. Abu Mazen also met in Tunis on July 29 with the Tunisian Prime Minister al-Hadi Noueiri and discussed with him several issues in the presence of the PLO representative in Tunis. The Tunisian Premier offered his condolences on the martyrdom of Zuheir Muhsin.



Chairman Arafat meets Arab League Secretary-General al-Klibi

ZUHEIR MUHSIN: THE STRUGGLE WILL CONTINUE



Zuheir Muhsin

Chairman Arafat and President Assad console Muhsin's wife, Alia



The Palestine Liberation Organization announces to the Palestinian people and the Arab nation the death of the militant leader, the martyr Zuheir Muhsin al-Daher, member of the PLO Executive Committee, Head of its Military Department, and Chairman of the Saiqa Organization, who was assassinated on July 25 at the hands of Israeli terror.

The PLO Executive Committee, while losing one of the most prominent of its militants, vows to the Palestinian people that the blood of the heroic martyr will give our Revolution the strength to continue on its road of armed struggle, honour and martyrdom. While bidding farewell to the martyr, the PLO affirms that the Israeli terror, directed by the killer Menachem Begin against our people, our Revolution and our leaders, will not stop their struggle but will only give it new impetus.

Those terrorist murderers who carry out the Camp David conspiracy against our people and Revolution will not escape punishment.

The Palestinian-Lebanese Joint Forces issued a communique, after an urgent meeting on July 26, bidding farewell to the martyr Zuheir Muhsin who accompanied the Palestinian Revolution since it was launched and said that he had played a role in the struggle against the Zionist-Isolationist conspiracies. "This crime coincides with the savage military attacks launched by the Zionist enemy and the Camp David allies against the Palestinian and Lebanese people in South Lebanon, and their attempts to implement the self-rule plan in the occupied territories," the communique concluded.

Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, received a large number of cables of condolence from Palestinian and Lebanese organizations, Arab states and friendly foreign governments. All denounced the murder committed by Zionist terror and affirmed that



Mourners at funeral call for support for Palestinian Revolution

the assassination will only increase the struggle of the Arab people against the conspiracies of the Camp David allies.

Zuheir Muhsin was born in Tulkarem, Palestine in 1936 and struggled for more than a quarter of a century as a member of the Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party, which he joined in 1953. In 1968, he was elected a member of the Palestinian National Council and was a member of the PLO Executive Committee throughout several sessions. He was married, and leaves behind a six month old son, named Hassan. Upon her arrival in Damascus for the funeral, Mohsen's wife, Alia, who was met by Chairman Yasser Arafat and other PLO and Syrian officials, stepped from the plane and cried: "Long live Palestine! Long live the Revolution! "

A large number of Arab citizens attended the funeral procession of Muhsin, which took place in Damascus on July 29, led by Yasser Arafat and Syrian President Hafez al Assad. The procession passed through the streets of Damascus, with the marchers chanting slogans calling for

the continuation of armed struggle, support of the Revolution, and resistance to all conspiracies and conspirators.

The procession ended at the Yarmouk camp where thousands of people gathered, among them Khaled al-Fahoum, President of the Palestinian National Congress; leaders of the various factions of the Palestinian Revolution, members of the PLO Executive Committee, Abdullah al-Ahmar, the Assistant Secretary-General of the Arab Socialist Baath Party, members of both the National and Regional Commands of the Baath Party, the Palestinian Organization of the Arab Socialist Baath Party, members of the Central Commands of the Lebanese National Movement and the Jordanian National Movement, representatives of the different Organizations and Unions in the Arab world and finally Arab and foreign Ambassadors. After the burial of Zuheir Muhsin, Arafat delivered a brief speech in which he said: "Neither the agents nor the Camp David axis, nor Begin, Sadat, or Carter will be able to bring us to our knees or divert the course of the Arab Nation."

ISRAEL TERRORIZES SOUTH LEBANON



Israeli air raid on July 22 destroys civilian homes

United States Ambassador John Gunther Dean was all smiles as he presented Lebanese Minister As'ad Rizk with a check for 700,000 dollars as "a contribution to the South." The check was presented during a ceremony on July 12 at the Council of Development and Reconstruction for the repair and reconstruction of over 2,000 homes that have been damaged by the continuous Israeli assaults on the South. Dean was also present when the Council transferred another U.S. grant of one million dollars to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Beirut's office of the UNICEF, to be used for socio-medical centers in the South.

Meanwhile, Israeli-isolationist allied Forces were "sympathizing" with the people of South Lebanon by shelling the Tyre region with artillery. Three civilians were injured, and three fishing boats were damaged when a shell hit the port area. Israeli U.S.-made jet fighters celebrated the occasion by breaking the sound barrier over Beirut. In fact the Israeli aggression has not stopped for the last three months. It is conti-

nuous, aiming at terrorizing the Lebanese and Palestinians in the South into leaving it to the mercy of the Israelis and Saad Haddad's Gang. But our courageous people in the South stand firmly against this scorched-earth policy in spite of the continuous bombardment and shelling of the area.

ON JULY 13:

Israeli jet fighters flew very low over Tyre and nearby Palestinian refugee camps in Bourj Chemali and Rashidiyeh. Israeli gunners shelled Tyre and four villages around it named as-Sala'a, Deir Kifa, Shehabiyeh and Derdghaiya.

ON JULY 14:

Israeli gunners shelled Hasbaya and the Hasbani river area causing heavy damage to homes and property.

ON JULY 15:

Israeli heavy artillery shelled Tyre for over two hours causing extensive damage and a number of casualties.

ON JULY 16:

Israeli border gunners shelled the Tyre harbor, destroying two fishing boats.

ON JULY 17:

Israeli gunboats shelled the coast at the Adloun area between Tyre and Sidon, killing one civilian and wounding three others.

ISRAELI GUNS, JETS WELCOME GOVERNMENT

ON JULY 18:

Israel and its local rightist allies in South Lebanon welcomed the new Lebanese government with a series of bombardments, over-flights and naval threats. Israeli U.S.-made planes covered most of the country and, broke the sound barrier over Beirut twice. A bombardment of the Arnoun area near Nabatiyeh for about an hour destroyed two U.N. vehicles, Tyre, Al-Khrab and most villages in the central and western sectors of South Lebanon were shelled by the Israeli and rightist gunners. Gunboats were seen alongside the coast. Fire was concentrated on a triangle embracing Jouaiya, Srifa and Qana — all in the U.N. area. Also a dawn attack was carried against Kfar Hammam and Habboush in the Norwegian battalion's zone of the U.N. controlled area.

"CARTER AND BEGIN DID THIS"

Abdul-Majid el-Amin, 41, stood beside a pile of rubble that used to be his house before the Israelis blew it up at dawn on July 19. He was calm as he related his story: "They knocked on the door and I said: who is it? They said the Israeli army. They asked my name and how many children I had and they told me to get out. Then they blew up the house... There is no reason for this. They (the Israelis and Haddad) come and go as they want in this area."

A group of children and neighbors gathered around an American reporter. "Look at the cracks in my house," said an elderly man, grabbing the reporter by the shoulder. "Carter and Begin did this".

El-Amin and his family of twelve have now no home to live in. But el-Amin said that he would not leave his village. "Where would you want me to go?" he said. "Everything I own is here. My house is here. My family is here. I will not leave even if they take everything from me".

ISRAELIS RAID SHAQRA

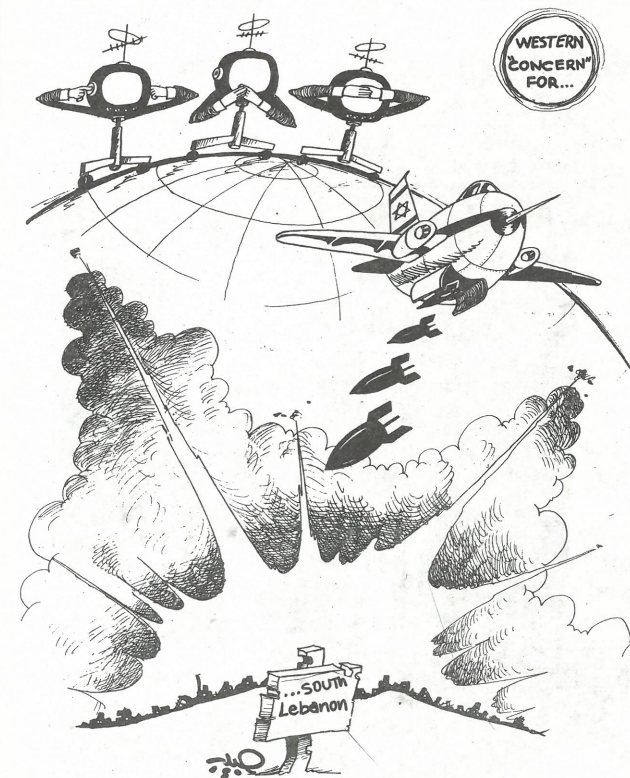
ON JULY 19:

The Israeli-isolationist forces shelled over a dozen villages in South Lebanon, starting at dawn and escalating the bombardment gradually into the night. The regions of Arnoun, Qala'a, Qilya, Malaya, Shama'iyeh and al-Taiba, Rashidiyeh camp, al-Hinniyeh, al-Azziyeh and Kfar Dounin came under fire. At the same time Israeli vessels patrolled the Rashidiyeh and Tyre coastal region.

The shelling came after an Israeli force estimated at 50 soldiers accompanied by Haddad's gunmen, marched into the U.N.-controlled village of Shaqra at 2:00 a.m., searched houses, destroyed one of them and damaged others. (See the accompanying box).

ON JULY 20:

An Israeli raiding party came behind UNIFIL lines, ashore near Saksakiyeh village before dawn and was confronted by a unit of the Joint Forces. A fierce battle occurred during which the Israelis suffered a number of casualties. Israeli warplanes flew over the area. Also, Israeli border gunners teamed with their rightist allies in a morning artillery barrage directed against



ISRAEL TERRORIZES SOUTH LEBANON

Hasbaya and al-Ma'aliya and Jal al-Bahr regions. The shelling continued late into the night.

ON JULY 22:

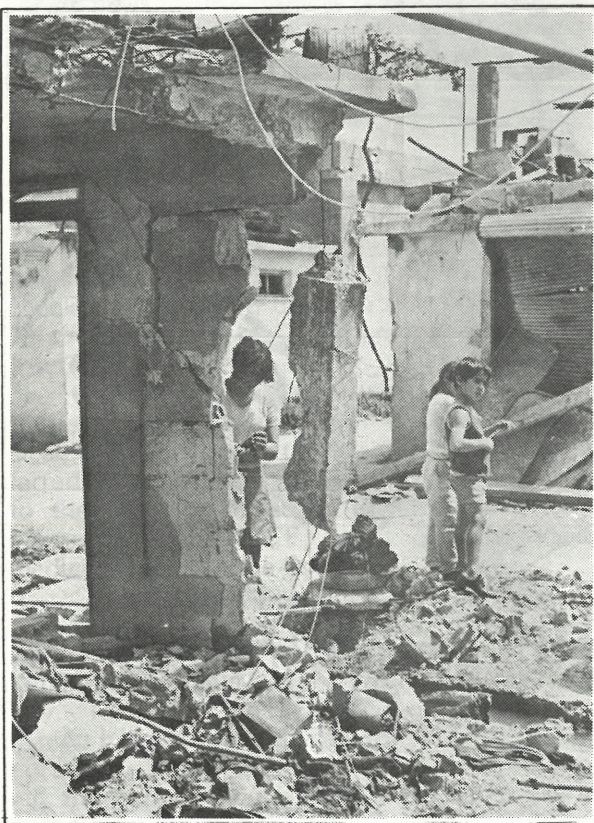
It was Sunday and everyone was out having a good time. But those caught on the coast between Beirut and Tyre panicked when a squadron of Israeli U.S.-made planes attacked them. Israeli planes raided Damour and Harat el-Na'ami, while another squadron of Israeli Phantoms bombarded the Aqbiyeh region south of Sidon. A third squadron bombed the Sarafand region.

The Israeli-isolationist forces also shelled the Aishiyeh, Rihan, Arqoub and Hasbaya regions. Intensive movement of the Israeli armoured vehicles was reported.

As a result, at least 20 Lebanese and Palestinian civilians, many of whom were on Sunday picnics, were killed and dozens wounded. (See eyewitness report in this issue).

ON JULY 27:

In another escalation of the ongoing Israeli



Rashidiyeh camp: most of its population have become refugees

war of attrition against the Lebanese and Palestinian people, Israeli long-range 175mm heavy artillery and surface-to-surface rockets pounded villages in the Southern and Central Beqaa valley region, including positions of the Arab Deterrent Forces. Among the areas hit were Kfar Mechki, al-Hosh, Marj Zuhur, Hasbaya and the Hasbani River Valley, some as far as 35 kms. from the frontier.

It is war to annihilate not only the Palestinian people, but also the courageous Lebanese people of South Lebanon, and with U.S. made weapons, artillery and planes. The Lebanese shall not be fooled by the generous grants that U.S. presents, because they receive its other "gifts" everyday in the South; cluster bombs, napalm and now and then an Israeli soldier, full of smiles, waiting at somebody's door to blow up his house.

ARAFAT MEETS ERSKINE

On July 18, Chairman Arafat met with the Commander of the UNIFIL, Gen. Emmanuel Erskine in the presence of Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO Political Department Abu Jihad, Abu al-Walid and Lt. Col. Hajj Ismail, the Commander of the Joint Forces in South Lebanon. The meeting was also attended by several officers of the UNIFIL. They discussed the deteriorating situation in South Lebanon and the Israeli military escalation in the UNIFIL region and outside it. They also discussed relations between the Joint Forces and the UNIFIL.

Mr. Kaddoumi told the reporters after the meeting: "We have assured Gen. Erskine that the PLO and Joint Forces have given their best efforts to facilitate the mission of UNIFIL in the South, but the aggressive policy of Israel is the main obstacle. We expressed our readiness to do everything in our power, more than what we have already done such as the elimination of all signs of military presence, in order to bring normal life back to Tyre".

But Gen. Erskine, alluding to Israel's recent air, sea and land attacks on Lebanese villages, said: "The closing of the offices in Tyre and other areas has resulted in no significant changes".

Next day, Israel attacked the U.N. forces for the first time in an official public statement. An army spokesman accused UNIFIL of "extending passive or active assistance which facilitates 'terrorist' operations against Israel."

We may note that on July 17 a summary of events prepared by the UNIFIL listed 7 incidents by the rightists or Israeli forces against U.N. troops or villages under U.N. protection in one week only (from July 9-15).

EYEWITNESS REPORT:

ISRAEL RAINS DEATH ON LEBANESE VILLAGE

July 22, 1979, Sarafand, Lebanon



Child killed by Israeli bombs on July 22 in Damour: the target is the civilian population

"Even in troubled South Lebanon, the roads on Sunday evening are full of families returning from the beach, from visiting relatives, or from social gatherings. It is a time when most people are outside, enjoying the last moments of relaxation in the warm summer evening. Travelling south on the Sidon-Tyre road in the early evening of July 22, however, the festive Sunday was transformed as a squadron of Israeli planes attacked the small Lebanese village of Sarafand.

"As our car approached Sarafand, panic was visible as cars sped away from the village at an almost suicidal pace, the grimaced drivers pressing insistently on their horns, as their families huddled in the seats. A Red Crescent ambulance, lights flashing and sirens wailing, headed north to the Sidon hospital. Over the village, huge columns of black smoke dominated the sky, spreading far out over the Mediterranean Sea.

"On the rutted road to the village, men, women and children were gathered. Many were holding their hands to their heads and wailing. Wild sounds of grief followed us as we moved up the road, towards where the smoke was billowing over the orange trees. At least one bomb, apparently a high-explosive one, had directly hit at 6:15 PM the house of Ahmed Gharib, a man of about fifty, who with his yellow headcloth in disarray, was supported by his neighbors as tears streamed down his face. His entire family had been killed in the raid.

"Rescue workers had already pulled several bodies from the rubble. A Belgian journalist rushed into the destruction and brought out a

two year old infant, a survivor from the family of Ahmed Gharib's brother, Ali. In a nearby car, festooned with paper flowers, as is the custom in Lebanon when celebrating a wedding or a birth, lay the corpse of a young boy, Ahmed Gharib's son. His torso had been severed in two. Villagers pointed to the blanket-covered body with uncontrolled gestures, moaning "Look, look!" as if needing confirmation that the tragedy had really occurred.

"The Gharib house lay in ruins. Approaching it through the trees, we were warned to be careful. Time bombs and cluster bombs might lie unexploded in the tall grass. A middle-aged woman, Ahmed Gharib's wife, lay dead under the heavy stones of her house, her arms outflung. It was difficult to remember she had been alive only half an hour before. The scene looked so final; her dark clothes blended into the earth as dusk settled on the village. With reluctance, some people moved closer to photograph her death, a record of a Sunday in South Lebanon.

"A shout goes up and the Israeli planes have been seen again. They can be heard overhead as we take shelter in the orange groves, helpless human beings at the mercy of American sophisticated machinery and a merciless Israeli strategy that sees human life in Lebanon as a target. But this time, the planes pass. Later, we learn that, in addition to Sarafand, Damour, Khaizaran, Adloun and Haret al-Na'ameh have also been hit. Official estimates are 20 dead and 65 wounded. All but three are civilians.

"The Israeli press is already calling Sarafand



U.S. "humanitarian concern" has not been extended to Lebanese refugees

EYEWITNESS REPORT:

and the other towns 'terrorist concentrations'. The Gharib family, Lebanese peasants, have been transformed into Palestinian commandos. But Sarafand, a small village about a quarter-mile off the main road, has no military installations, and the young boy, whose life was ended so horribly, carried no gun.

"Travelling back to Damour later that night with a wire-service reporter, we noted that in the three months of almost daily Israeli shelling or bombing of South Lebanon, not one photo has appeared in the American press, not one television report from the scene. Reports are condensed, impersonal and appear as a small paragraph that does not convey the human misery and the scope of the destruction. He is defensive; he and his cameraman have sent daily reports, including television clips, from the South. None have appeared except as brief news.

"Today, many towns and Palestinian camps in South Lebanon are almost deserted. Rashidi-

yeh and Bourjchemali, for example, camps near the port city of Tyre, are ghostly piles of rubble, with only a fraction of the population remaining. A Swedish doctor at the Rashidiyeh clinic, Dr. Anderson, reports that people suffer many infections from spending so many nights in air raid shelters. Nearby Lebanese villages, whose systems of shelters are inadequate, suffer even more. Those who remain in South Lebanon are the peasants, who cannot afford to move to a safer location. Their life under the bombs is strikingly similar to that of peasants in Indo-China during the American bombing; they endure but the price they pay is very high.

"A young British student, who witnessed the air raid along with four other British students, who were part of a fact-finding tour from the youth organization of the British Labor Party, spoke to a reporter in a trembling voice, describing his own fear as he hid from the planes. Near tears, he almost shouted into the camera: "Camp David — they say it is about peace, that there will be peace — but instead, it has allowed Israel to bomb civilians." For Lebanon, the Egyptian-Israeli treaty has come sealed with a new round of human agony, agony that to this date, Western countries have almost ignored."

U.S. POLICY AND THE LEBANESE CRISIS

"We very much want Lebanon to come out from under the troubles which have beset this wonderful country, this paradise, and we intend to be as helpful and friendly as possible in bringing about that objective."

(U.S. Under-Secretary of State Morris Draper, in an interview in "Monday Morning", July 15, 1979).

U.S. officials currently are eager to portray the United States as a helpful "mediator" in international crises, whether in Nicaragua, Zimbabwe, or the Middle East. The U.S. State Department is particularly adept at this role, often at the same time as the Pentagon, CIA, National Security advisors and other Administration figures are proclaiming by their policies the exact opposite.

Such is the case with the conflict in the Middle East in general, and the Lebanese crisis in particular. In the interview quoted above, for example, Undersecretary Draper affirms that the U.S. role in the Middle East is to "promote the process of conciliation and negotiation" and bring about a peace settlement that will be for the "vital and human interest of every individual in the Middle East." He dismisses as "ridiculous conjecture" the formation of an Egyptian-Israeli military alliance or U.S. interference in the internal affairs of Arab states.

Perhaps Mr. Draper's lines of communication to other government bodies, like the Defense Department or the Congress, have been cut, but if he were to pick up any newspaper, he would discover these "ridiculous conjectures" being openly discussed by his colleagues. On Capitol Hill, for example, Speaker of the House Tip



Damour, Lebanon: one of twenty-two Israeli raids using U.S. planes in July, 1979

O'Neill and Senator Henry Jackson have both publicly prophesied an Egyptian-Israeli military alliance to guard Middle Eastern oil for the U.S.

In the case of Lebanon, it has been reported that the U.S. is actively seeking a new formula to solve the Lebanese conflict and has been in touch with several parties to the conflict (see **The Middle East**, July, 1979). In the light of the historical role of the U.S. in Lebanon, however, the U.S. is a highly questionable "mediator."

THE UNITED STATES AND LEBANON

As U.S. involvement in the Middle East grew in the years following World War II, the U.S. began to pursue a much more aggressive policy in the region, aimed at securing its economic and strategic interests, and containing forces for change. In 1958, a year when Arab nationalism was at a peak in the region, with revolution in Iraq, unrest in Jordan, and the union of Egypt and Syria, U.S. Marines landed in Lebanon to protect the government of then President Camille Chamoun, who had stirred up long-simmering protest by running for an unprecedented second term as President.

The U.S. came to the rescue of the rightist Chamoun and his allies yet another time in the mid-1970s, when the CIA began supplying arms to the rightist militias in Lebanon. The U.S. saw these militias, which were organized along fascist lines, as a brake on the movement for secular democracy and social reform in Lebanon, which was growing among the poor and dispossessed, and as a counter to the Palestinian resistance. U.S. corporate interests in Lebanon had expanded rapidly in the last decades, and American firms and banks, like Chase Manhattan, were becoming even more powerful than their French counterparts, who had traditionally dominated the Lebanese economy.

The U.S. was determined to maintain the *status quo* of sectarian government in Lebanon, which had indeed made Lebanon a financial "paradise" for Western business. The civil war in Lebanon, which was to turn this paradise into an inferno, erupted in April, 1975 when Phalangist militiamen attacked a bus of Palestinians, killing 26 people. As the Palestinians and the Lebanese progressives gained ground in this war, the U.S. helicopter cruiser, the *Guadacanal*, six other ships and 1700 Marines cruised off the Lebanese coast in April of 1976, a grim reminder of U.S. interests in Lebanon.

Most recently, despite its frequently stated

position on the "sovereignty" of Lebanon and its alleged support for the Lebanese central government, the U.S. has continued to supply Israel with arms to wage war in Lebanon, including the internationally-banned cluster bomb and other anti-personnel weapons. U.S. weapons have even been used by Israel to attack those institutions the U.S. so fervently advocates in its public statements — the Lebanese central army and the U.N. forces (UNIFIL). On April 23, 1979, the United Nations command confirmed that it had discovered U.S.-made shells among those used against the U.N. and the Lebanese army, which was attempting to take up positions in the South.

In the wake of a series of especially savage Israeli air raids on Sunday, July 22, that killed at least twenty civilians in South Lebanon, the U.S. government, through State Department spokesman Hodding Carter 3rd, issued its first direct rebuke of Israel in recent months and promised to "study" the Israeli use of American Phantoms in these attacks. Washington's criticism, however, was immediately rejected by Israel, which affirmed that it would continue to "hit the bases of terrorists wherever they are."

Is the U.S., then, a "helpless giant," which has tried to pressure its aggressive ally Israel, but to no avail? The U.S. State Department would like world opinion to think so. In fact, the current Israeli aggression is a direct result of the U.S.-sponsored "peace" treaty, just as the destructive war in Lebanon erupted in the wake of the U.S.-arranged Sinai II disengagement pact of 1975. Both pacts fragmented the Arab world by concluding separate deals with Egypt and thus gave Israel a free hand in waging its campaign against the Palestinian and Lebanese people.

After the Syrian-Israeli airbattle on June 27, State Department spokesman Hodding Carter noted for the first time that the Israelis were employing a policy of "preemptive strikes" in Lebanon — in other words, attacking Lebanon without any previous attack on Israel. He did not, however, condemn this policy and resorted to the usual tactic of deploring the "cycle of violence." This image, which attributes no blame for the crisis in Lebanon, is extremely useful to the U.S., but is, in fact, equally misleading, as Israeli provocation in Lebanon is both obvious and well-documented by the U.N. forces.

U.S. foreign policy, which aims to extend the "peace" process formulated at Camp David throughout the Arab world, cannot support a genuine and just solution to the agony of Lebanon. The basic principles of such a solution already exist: they were confirmed, for example, by the Arab Foreign Ministers Conference in Beiteddine in October of 1978, which recognized Lebanon as an united Arab country and

rejected Israeli interference. The U.S. cannot support even these minimal principles, as it cannot support Palestinian self-determination or even the 1969 Cairo Agreements that govern Palestinian-Lebanese relations, because Lebanon is seen as an arena where the forces that oppose the "peace" treaty, including Syria and the PLO, may be forced into submission by Israeli military power.

Inam Ra'ad, a member of the Central Political Council of the Lebanese National Movement, which stands for a future peaceful and democratic Lebanon, noted the true role of the U.S., saying: "We are still part of the strategy of preserving the mineral resources of the area. We are part of the security of the oil baron."

Thus, the humanitarian sentiments expressed by U.S. State Department spokespersons quickly yield to "the security of the oil baron" when it comes to action. In much the same manner, State Department public concern about "human rights" is countered by its own actions, like the firing of State Department employee Alexandra U. Johnson in the wake of her cables detailing Israeli torture of Palestinians, or the refusal of visas to prominent Palestinians.

In the last several decades, as Mr. Draper accurately notes, U.S. policy has only changed tactically. He affirms: "There will be continuity in American foreign policy regarding the Middle East." Until this "continuity" is challenged, and the U.S. comes to grips with the real issues in the Middle East — justice and independence for the peoples of the area, and self-determination for the Palestinians — its words will continue to ring hollow.

U.S.-made cluster bomb used in South Lebanon



U.S. CONGRESSMAN FINDLEY:
CONDEMN ISRAELI USE
OF U.S. WEAPONS

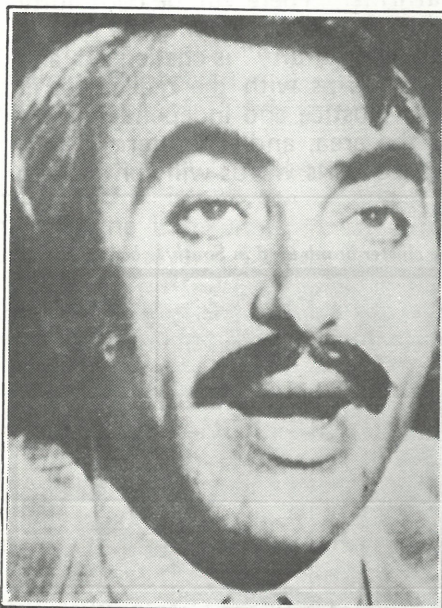
Representative Paul Findley introduced a resolution in the U.S. House of Representatives on August 2 to order the State Department to announce if Israeli use of U.S. planes for bombing raids in Lebanon is illegal.

The Illinois Republican also introduced resolutions to veto 601 million dollars' worth of U.S. arms sales to Israel, but the resolutions were too late for Congress to act on them before it begins a month-long recess.

Findley said he believes the Israeli raids in Lebanon do violate U.S. law against U.S. weapons being used by other countries for aggression. "This raises the shocking prospect that our government has not seen fit to challenge the use of U.S. military equipment for illegal purposes," Findley said at a news conference.

Findley noted that beginning in May, "Israel broke the U.N.-arranged truce and began launching these attacks to hit the Palestinians any time and any place." Findley had introduced the resolutions, he said, because repeated attempts to get the information from the Administration had failed. In reply, the State Department said a response to Findley's questions about the legality of Israel's use of U.S. warplanes in raids against Lebanon had been prepared, but was awaiting Secretary of State Vance's approval.

Findley was also active in a similar controversy about Israeli use of U.S. cluster bombs in the March 1978 invasion of Lebanon. The issue was dropped after Israel "promised" to employ these weapons only defensively, a promise it was to break in subsequent months. Findley has also advocated that the U.S. conduct discussions with the Palestine Liberation Organization and has met several times with Chairman Yassir Arafat.



Mayor Karim Khalaf

KHALAF AND TAWIL: "ISRAEL IS PLOTTING TO OUST US"

Ibrahim Suleiman Tawil, Mayor of el-Bireh, and Karim Khalaf, Mayor of adjoining Ramallah, face possible trial on charges of attacking police and causing a disturbance during a civil court case last November. The mayors had attempted to attend the hearing, in which residents of Ramallah and Bireh were challenging the Israeli seizure of some 1500 acres of Palestinian land for Jewish settlement. As expected, the land case went against the Palestinian appellants, and the Israeli military authorities have seized the land.

Noting that these assault charges were not brought until very recently, Khalaf told "Reuters" in an interview on July 16: "This is because the autonomy talks are now going on with Egypt. They think it is now time to get rid of mayors who are working against the autonomy plan." Under the law applied in the West Bank, a mayor convicted of a legal offense can be dismissed and replaced by a person nominated by the existing authorities, in this case, the Israeli military government. "They are trying to oust us through dirty tricks," Khalaf said.

Mayor Tawil added: "They are trying to get rid of us because we will not cooperate with them. Autonomy is the son of the occupation. It makes the occupation legal. Not only are the Israelis trying to remove the two of us, but they want to liquidate all the nationalist Palestinian mayors."

Palestinian mayors have united in condemning this Israeli measure. Bassem al Shaka'a, Mayor of Nablus, said that its aim is to destroy the municipal councils. He added: "We condemn this measure and we are all agreed to resist it. Khalaf, Tawil and all members of municipal councils were elected by the Palestinian masses, who are united against this new attempt."

Hebron Mayor Fahd al-Qawasme said: "The military administration began to think of ways to get rid of the nationalist mayors as a step towards implementing the self-rule conspiracy, but I affirm that the Palestinian people will confront this attempt with greater consciousness and steadfastness." The Mayor of Halhoul, Mohammed Melhim, added that this measure violates the Geneva Conventions on human rights, and is part of the self-rule conspiracy.

It may be of benefit to recall that Israeli authorities last month announced plans to bring Mayor Bassam al Shaka'a of Nablus and some fifty of the town notables to trial for taking part in a forbidden anti-settlement demonstration. The charges were suspended because the Israelis feared that the trial would be turned into a showcase for the Palestinian cause.

CONFERENCE OF SOLIDARITY WITH ELECTRICITY COMPANY WORKERS

A popular and trade union con-

ference was held at the Electricity Company's meeting hall in Jerusalem on July 22 in solidarity with the Company's workers who have been on strike for ten days. The strikers are demanding an end to the brutal and oppressive Zionist measures against them and are refusing the proposed annexation of the Palestinian company to the Israeli one as part of the "Judaization" of Jerusalem. The conference was attended by the West Bank Mayors, national personalities, representatives of labor and professional unions and local and foreign journalists.

The conference adopted many resolutions, among them:

1 — Absolute support for the workers' demands.

2 — Calling on the municipal councils to take revolutionary stands against the Electricity Company's administration.

3 — Confirming that the working class has sacrificed a great deal to defend Palestinian identity and Arabism.

PALESTINIAN NATIONAL FRONT: INTENSIFY THE STRUGGLE

The Palestinian National Front (PNF) inside the occupied territories issued a communique in which it called on the Palestinian masses and nationalist forces to intensify their struggle against Zionism in order to foil the self-rule conspiracy and restore Palestinian national rights under the PLO's leadership. The communique reviewed the imperialist-Zionist campaign, as represented by the Camp David conspiracy, against the Palestinian and Arab people, and condemned the racist projects implemented by the Israeli authorities inside and outside Palestine. The communique also condemned the role of policeman adopted by Sadat, with the support of the U.S., the objective of which is to strike at the Arab, Palestinian and African liberation movements

and make them submit to U.S. domination.

The communique praised the socialist countries' support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people and demanded that the Palestinians strive to achieve the following:

1. Consolidate national unity inside the occupied territories so as to foil the capitulationist settlements.

2. Consolidate the alliance with the Arab and international liberation movements and the socialist countries to enlarge the Front hostile to the U.S.-Israeli-Sadat Pact.

3. Escalate resistance to settlements and land seizures.

4. Reject completely the self-rule plan.

5. Condemn the line of relying on U.S. imperialism, which has only led to further retreats, and the loss of Palestinian rights.

6. Confirm that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

ANGRY PROTESTS HALT SETTLEMENT

The Israeli authorities on July 24 submitted to the protests of the population of Bethlehem and issued an order to temporarily stop all construction work in the Israeli settlement of Ephrat. This order follows an unsuccessful attempt to suppress the anger of Bethlehem inhabitants and of nationalist institutions there, which recently declared an open strike and staged demonstrations to denounce the arbitrary Israeli plans. Elias Freij, the Mayor of Bethlehem, had earlier denied the Israeli authorities' claims that the seized lands were uncultivated or uninhabited. He stated that the above-mentioned land was full of orchards and inhabited by more than 150 villagers.

JERUSALEM NATIONAL CONFERENCE: NO TO "SELF RULE," YES TO PLO

On July 20-23, the annual Conference for the Union of Charity Associations in the West Bank was held in Jerusalem, and rapidly became what news agencies described as "a national parliament of the West Bank against the 'self-rule' plan and in favor of the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people." Over three hundred Palestinian personalities, mayors, representatives of national institutions, labor unions, charity associations, progressive Jewish personalities and student delegates attended the conference.

The conference discussed a number of important issues, related to the social and political situation of the Palestinian people under occupation, issued a political communique and adopted a number of resolutions. In addition to resolutions pertaining to social problems, the stated subject of the conference, the participants called in their communique for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO,

the sole representative of the Palestinian people, the rejection of the Zionist occupation and firm opposition to the Judaization of Jerusalem. The conference rejected the Zionist "self-rule" plan, announcing that it is impossible to apply any plan if the Palestinian people are not allowed self-determination.

The Conference is especially significant for the following reasons:

1. It was held in Jerusalem itself, and thus was a blow to the Israeli dream of Judaization and annexation of the Arab city, and to the Zionist military occupation.

2. The Jerusalem National Conference is the first to be held in the last eight months, since the Nablus National Conference met on November 7, 1978. The Nablus meeting was considered the most important of five national conferences preceding it. The Israeli authorities have forbidden any popular conferences and our people therefore challenged the Zionist occupation when they discussed all aspects of the Palestinian issue, and not only "the social and educational problems in the occupied territories"



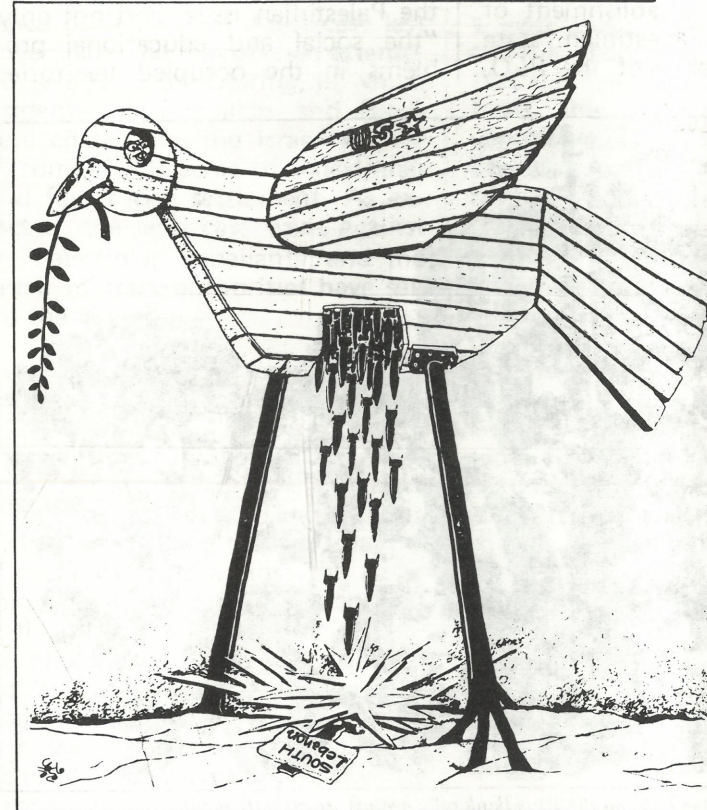
Young and old on the West Bank rally against Israeli settlement

and East Jerusalem," as was the stated topic. In fact, Jerusalem newspapers mentioned that the Israeli authorities intend to bring to trial the Palestinian personalities who participated in the conference.

3. The conference came at a time when the Egyptian regime and the Zionist entity were holding talks on "self-rule." The Jerusalem meeting was an appropriate answer, since it confirmed a popular consensus to support the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinians and reject the so-called "self-rule."

4. The conference confirmed the unity of the Palestinian people in Gaza, the West Bank, 1948-occupied Palestine and in exile, and stressed the unity of the Palestinian destiny.

During the conference, a youth stood and shouted "Long live the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of my Palestinian people! Long live the struggle of my Palestinian people!" Surely, this expressed the true topic of the Jerusalem National Conference.



THE FALSE PEACE:

FROM "AUTONOMY TALKS" TO "MUTUAL DISCUSSIONS"

During the meeting of Egyptian head of state Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Begin in early July in Alexandria, both leaders have publicly admitted that they were unable to find a puppet from amongst the Palestinian people to further their so-called "autonomy talks." Putting aside any serious attempts to push the talks forward, both leaders were reported to have turned to discussing issues of "mutual concern."

Top on the agenda in the "frank and friendly" discussions of both was the need to do something jointly to break out of their regional and international isolation. Both leaders, despite their public statement of respect for Lebanon's sovereignty, have agreed to work jointly to force Syrian withdrawal from its peace-keeping mission in Lebanon. According to diplomatic sources, this is expected to weaken Syria's regional position and make it more flexible in accepting Zionist demands.

The "Entente Cordiale" reached by the two leaders was mainly concerned with strategic issues. They have reportedly agreed to strive together to offset the shift of the balance of forces in the Middle East after the Iranian revolution. This will take the form of support for the counter-revolutionary forces in Iran.

On the ground, as made public by Israeli Foreign Minister Dayan, Israeli aircraft, mainly the long-range F-15 and F-16 planes, will be stationed in the Sinai after the withdrawal of Israeli forces. This will enable both leaders to pose a threat of aggression in the region that could reach as far as the Indian Ocean. This joint adventure serving American imperialist regional policy is expected to be backed by Washington fully.

In an apparent attempt to save both leaders' declining image in their respective countries, Sadat and Begin have agreed to help each other out. Egypt, in light of the continuing energy crisis in Israel, has agreed to supply Israel with oil from its Sinai wells. In exchange, Israel is to cooperate in crushing Egyptian opposition and is to withdraw from Saint Catherine ahead of schedule, to coincide with Sadat's second anniversary of his trip to Jerusalem. This will enable Sadat to claim another victory to the Egyptian people, who have become restless due to the deteriorating economic situation.

Both leaders have also agreed to exchange ambassadors before February to facilitate joint adventures. Begin and Sadat plan to meet again in the near future to coordinate other plans of action.

MILITARY OPERATIONS

COMMANDOS PLANT EXPLOSIVES IN JAFFA, JERUSALEM AND NABLUS

No. 108/79: Palestinian commandos from units operating inside occupied Palestine, on July 14, planted explosive charges at the entrance to the Zionist security forces office in Yafit Street in the city of Jaffa. The charges exploded at 3:00 am on July 15, killing or wounding a number of the enemy, and seriously damaging the building and a number of cars parked near the office.

Israeli police immediately rushed to the site of the explosion and began to search for other charges, while ambulances evacuated casualties. Israel Radio admitted the operation and quoted police sources as saying that two injured people and an unexploded charge were found at the site of the explosion.

Following the explosion, which shook the entire area, Israeli security forces intensified their patrols and check-points in the city and arrested a number of Palestinian citizens. The unit returned safely to base.

No. 109/79: A commando unit on July 14, planted a timed explosive charge near a factory in the Ramat Eshkol industrial district near the city of Jerusalem. The charge was, however, discovered that afternoon, and immediately defused by explosives experts after the area was evacuated and closed to all traffic.

The discovery of the charge led to intensive security measures in the city of Jerusalem where several Palestinian citizens were arrested at police and civil guards check-points for their alleged connection with the operation. The commando unit, nevertheless, returned safely to base.

No. 110/79: A special commando unit operating in occupied Palestine



at dawn on July 15, planted a timed powerful explosive charge inside a parking lot for vehicles near the Zionist Military Governor's office in the eastern end of the city of Nablus.

An Israeli soldier, however, discovered the charge at 8.30 am, and immediately called a police sapper to defuse it. But when the latter tried to transport the charge to a nearby empty lot, the charge exploded in his hands, killing him on the spot and injuring a number of soldiers. The explosion also resulted in extensive material damage to military cars, vehicles and equipment nearby.

Israel Radio at noon on July 15 admitted the operation on behalf of a Zionist military spokesman who did not, however, disclose the human or material losses. The wave of arrests of Palestinians citizens, which followed the operation, continued into the afternoon. The unit returned safely to base.

COMMANDO OPERATION NEAR RAMLEH

No. 111/79: At dawn on July 17, timed incendiary charges went off in the Akshava Factory for the wrapping of citrus fruit, located in the industrial region of the Hanegev settlement, south-west of Ramleh.

The explosion killed or injured several Israelis and caused huge material losses. Radio Israel admitted the operation in its Hebrew language news bulletin, and estimated its losses at more than one million Is-

raeli pounds as a result of damage to the machinery. Firemen failed to control the fire, which continued to blaze for several hours.

Security measures, including mobile patrols and check-points were consequently intensified along the roads to the settlement and dozens of Palestinian citizens were arrested on charges of involvement in the operation.

MILITARY OPERATION IN JERUSALEM

No. 112/79: A special commando unit on July 19, planted several powerful timed explosive charges inside a crowded installation in Jaffa Street in Jerusalem. At 5.30 pm, the charges exploded consecutively, killing or wounding an unspecified number of the enemy, and seriously damaging the neighboring buildings.

Israeli security forces consequently closed the street, while explosives experts searched the area for other charges. At the same time, check-points were erected in the streets of Jerusalem, where many Palestinian citizens were arrested on the pretext of their involvement in the operation.

Israeli Radio admitted the operation in its Hebrew language bulletin; and the Israeli police spokesman claimed that two charges had exploded, and that three persons were injured, among them an explosives expert. The commando unit returned safely to base.

MILITARY OPERATIONS

EXPLOSION IN KFAR SABA SETTLEMENT

No. 114/79: On July 23, special commando unit C headed towards its target in the Kfar Saba settlement south of Herzliya and planted timed highly explosive charges in one of the main streets of the settlement.

At 5:35 p.m. the charges went off, inflicting an unspecified number of enemy casualties, and damaging a number of shops. Israeli ambulances were later seen rushing to the site of the explosion to evacuate the wounded.

Israeli security forces closed off all roads leading to the scene of the blast, and combed the area in search for other explosives. In the same time, the Israeli authorities erected several checkpoints and arrested 17 Palestinian citizens on the pretext of their involvement in the operation.

EXPLOSIVE CHARGE CUTS ELECTRICITY TO NORTH TEL AVIV

No. 115/79: Acting on orders, special unit "A", on July 23 planted

several timed explosive charges inside the main capacitor of the electricity network in the Northern region of Tel Aviv.

At 9 p.m., the charges went off at the fixed time, with the explosion resounding in numerous sectors of the North Tel Aviv area.

The explosion damaged the main capacitor of the subsidiary network which supplies North Tel Aviv, and the current was cut off from several parts of the city. Two workers in the subsidiary network were also wounded.

Radio Israel admitted the operation in its Hebrew language bulletin and reported that the explosion took place inside the network at 9:30 p.m. However, it said that the causes of the explosion and its executors were unknown.

EXPLOSION NEAR NATANYA

No. 116/79: At dawn on July 25, a special commando unit planted timed highly explosive charges inside a military transport station at the Beit Lid-Natanya crossroads, north of Tel Aviv.

At 9:00 a.m., the charges went off during rush hour, injuring twelve persons, destroying large parts of the station and damaging an Israeli

military vehicle parked nearby.

Radio Israel admitted the operation in its Hebrew language bulletin at noon and reported that nine of the casualties were transferred to the Kfar Saba and Hadera hospitals. The commando unit returned safely to base despite the intensive security measures and search campaigns carried out in the region.

PALESTINIAN COMMANDOS SHELL ISRAELI MILITARY BASE IN QIRYAT ARBA'

No. 117/79: Palestinian commandos of the "Martyr Capt. Daher al-Awawdeh" unit on July 27 launched a rocket attack on an Israeli military camp near the Qiryat Arba' settlement in the Hebron region.

The rockets hit their target inside the camp inflicting heavy losses in men and equipment, and starting fires in several installations in the settlement.

Radio Israel admitted the operation and reported that the explosion was heard near an army base in the Hebron region and that search operations led to the discovery of a rocket launcher nearby. The commando unit returned safely to base despite enemy check-points and search campaigns aimed against the Palestinian citizens there.

ZIONISM IN PRACTICE

ISRAELI ARMY: MEDALS FOR SCANDAL

The Israeli Army, once protected by secrecy, has recently been shaken by scandals. A series of disclosures over the past year has revealed cover-ups, inefficiency, lax discipline and battle crimes ranging from looting to murder of prisoners. It was uncovered that the Chief of Staff, Lt. General Raphael Eytan, had granted leniency to soldiers convicted of killing Arab civilians. The Army also looted and killed prisoners in Lebanon.

Such transgressions have always occurred, but were never publicized. "What has changed in the army is the level of exposure," said Amnon Rubenstein, an Israeli Member of Knesset to an AP reporter on July 25.

During a stormy Knesset debate in early July, Meir Pa'il, a leftist MK, called for Eytan's resignation, accusing him of distorting the truth about the killing of Arabs and reducing the sentence of Israeli officer Lederman, who shot a Jerusalem Arab who happened to be passing him in the street, and later said that he killed him in "revenge" for the death of a soldier friend of his in a Palestinian military operation.

The officer was sentenced to ten years by a Military Court, but his sentence was reduced on appeal to eight years. Then, General Eytan commuted it to only three years. Eytan claimed that the officer concerned had faced alone an extreme situation, which he (Eytan) felt was tantamount to a threat against his life, and thus had to come to a decision very fast. But the "Jerusalem Post" reported on July 23 that "Versions of the incident which are closer to the truth have all been blue-pencilled by the censor, who obeys the Chief of Staff's orders. These versions attribute sadistic motives to the officer, who repor-



Israeli army: "the blood of any Arab can be shed at will"

tedly acted in cold blood."

This reduction of Lederman's sentence was the latest in a string of events that has revealed some of the cruel and fascist actions of the Israeli Army. Other incidents include:

* West Bank Military Governor, David Hagoel, covered up an incident fourteen months ago in which soldiers fired tear gas into a Palestinian school in Beit Jalla during an anti-occupation demonstration, and locked the doors of the school. A number of Palestinian youths were injured jumping out of windows to escape the fumes.

* Last January, the navy commander, Rear Admiral Michael Barkai was brought to trial for sexually assaulting a female officer. This trial revealed many immoral practices inside the army.

* Cruel treatment of young soldiers in training led to the suicide of a religious young recruit.

A scathing report by the Israeli State Comptroller on the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in March 1978 revealed 182 cases of soldiers prosecuted for looting in Lebanon. The

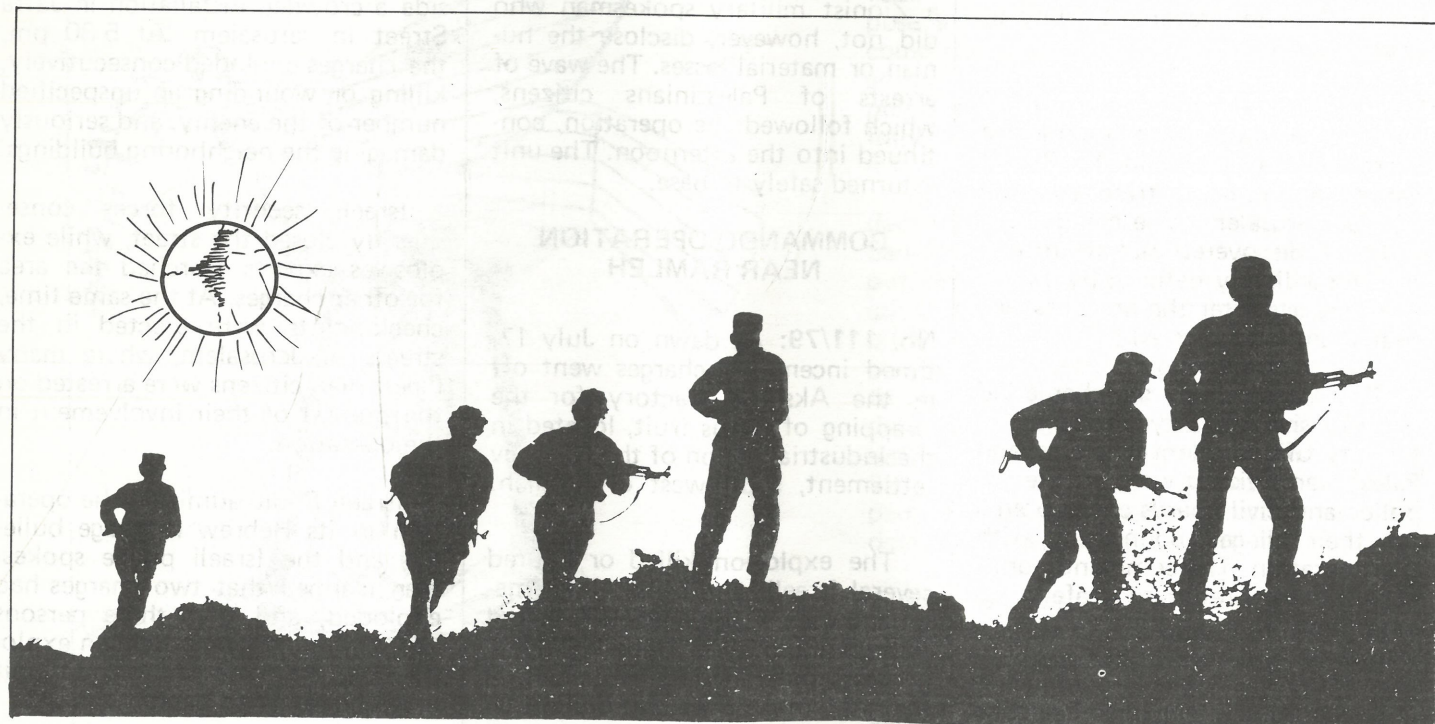
latest controversy erupted in early July when leftist MK Shulamit Aloni revealed the leniency granted to an Israeli lieutenant who murdered at least two Arab prisoners during the invasion of South Lebanon. Military censors had previously prevented publication of the case.

The facts of the case were that Eytan, overruling a military appeals court, reduced the soldier's prison sentence from eight years to two years. People could conclude, one columnist wrote, that "the blood of any Arab can be shed at will." Critics have charged that additional cases have been hidden by censors. These are but some of the "glorious" actions of the "invincible" Israeli Army. Certainly, time shall uncover more and more of such "honorable" actions.

MORE POLITICAL PRISONERS

JERUSALEM: An Israeli Court sentenced Rafiq al-Khatib to 30 years imprisonment on the charge of planting an explosive at Jaffa street in Jerusalem. It also sentenced Nasser al-Affandi to 25 years imprisonment on similar charges.

On July 3, the same court sen-



ZIONISM IN PRACTICE

tenced Jamil Hasib from 'Arara village to 24 months in prison and Hasan al-Sharuf from Nuba village to 30 months imprisonment for offering food to a citizen who was wanted by the Israeli forces.

The Israeli military court sentenced two 15 year old Palestinians to eight years imprisonment, and Salah Asqalani to seven months imprisonment on charges of affiliation with the Palestinian Revolution.

In a related news, the Israel central court in occupied Jerusalem will try dozens of Palestinian citizens who were arrested on March 24 following a clash with members of Gush Emunim who were trying to storm Islamic holy places in Jerusalem.

LYDD: The military court on July 18 sentenced Nabil Salem, 23, to 3 1/5 years imprisonment on charges of affiliation to the Palestinian Revolution. Salem was arrested at Lydd Airport upon his return from the U.S.

The military court sentenced Marwan Hreish, 26, from Nazareth, to 12 years imprisonment on charges of affiliation with Fateh, and sentenced his sister, Shafiqa Hreish to four years on the same charge. The same court sentenced Muwafac Bassal, 20 from Kfar Yassif, to 5 years and Azmi Abdel Ghani to 8 months imprisonment on the same charges.

On July 29, the military court sentenced Walid Shehadeh to 20 years imprisonment on charges of affiliation with Fateh and resisting Israeli occupation.

GAZA: The military court, on July 19, sentenced Fayez Awad, 23; Ibrahim Abdel Qader, 21, and Muhammad Hussein, 27, to seven years imprisonment each on charges of

affiliation to the Palestinian Revolution, training in the use of weapons and execution of a number of operations against military targets.

TEL AVIV: A military court sentenced Munir Sharabi, former General Secretary of the Arab Student Organization in the occupied territories to 20 years imprisonment claiming that he was responsible for several hand grenade attacks in Haifa and Nazareth.

ARRESTS AND DEPORTATIONS

In Haifa on July 29, the Israeli supreme court approved the decision of the occupied authorities to deport the Palestinian citizen Atef al-Barghouti for resisting the occupation.

At the same time, the Israeli Central Court in Haifa ordered the indeterminate prolonged arrest of Ali al-Qaisi from al-Mafjer village. Meanwhile, the occupation authorities imposed house-arrest on Nazih Abu Fayyad from Majdal Shams in the occupied Golan Heights.

In Jerusalem, the Israeli authorities on July 16, arrested the Palestinian Rafiq Abu Wardeh from Acre who is studying at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

PALESTINIAN AND PROGRESSIVE JEWISH STUDENTS CLASH WITH ZIONIST GANGS

Palestinian and progressive Jewish students on July 22 were attacked by Zionist student gangs in a student dormitory in the Hebrew University on Mount Scopus in Jerusalem. The Zionist students broke into the dorms, using clubs and knives. As a result of the attack, three Palestinian students were wounded, including Mustafa Abu Libdah, a correspondent for the Italian news agency in Jerusalem. An Israeli police officer, who was later summoned to the dormitories, claimed that the aggressors were not Zionist students and that since he did not know

their identities, there was nothing he could do.

Zionist student groups at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem had earlier warned Palestinian and progressive Jewish students to move out of the dormitories because of their denunciation of Israeli policy against Palestinian citizens and their declaration of support for the PLO.

In a related news, the administration of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem has expelled the President of the Arab Student's Union for participating in student demonstrations against Israeli racist policies, and in solidarity with the students and teachers of Bir Zeit University and the other academic institutions in the occupied territories.

NEW DE-FACTO SETTLEMENTS

Israel, as usual, turned a deaf ear to the Council appeal. In fact, during this month, the Israeli authorities proceeded with construction of Ephrat settlement on the road between Bethlehem and Galilee and approved a resolution to establish a new settlement in the Kfar Asyoun region on the same road. The families to be settled there were already affiliated with two settlement nuclei, one of them from the U.S. (150 families) and the second from South Africa (50 families). Al-Maleh Camp near Tubas village is also being enlarged. Thirty prefabricated houses have been erected to transform the camp to a new settlement.

On July 24, the Financial Council of the Israeli Knesset agreed on the allocation of \$ 350 million in credits to establish 13 new settlements in the occupied Arab territories: two in the Jordan River Valley, one in Gaza and eight in the West Bank. Simcha Ehrlich, the Israeli Minister of Finance, who requested the approval, agreed with Ariel Sharon, the Agriculture Minister, to allocate IL500 million to support this new settlement plan.

On July 29, the Israeli news-

paper "Ha'aretz" reported the government's intention to establish ten new settlements around Nablus, constituting a settlement belt around the city to strengthen the position of the new Alon Moreh settlement.

While Ariel Sharon announced the intention of his government to establish a settlement belt between the Naqab and the city of Hebron. The aim, he said, is to reduce contacts between the Palestinian citizens of the two areas.

CONFISCATION OF ARAB LAND

The Head of the Settlement Department told journalists that the execution of the settlement belt around Nablus requires the confiscation of thousands of dunums of the hilly land around Nablus. He claimed that settlers in the West Bank numbered now 18,000. We may note that Ariel Sharon has instructed the Head of the Israel Land Department in the North to confiscate all the hilly land in Galilee and asked the members of the Israel Land Department to prepare plans for the establishment of settlements in Golan, warning the Department about Arab domination of these regions if settlement plans were not quickly enacted.

On the other hand, the Zionist authorities have confiscated 600 dunums of land in the Hebron area to enlarge the Qiryat 'Arba settlement. They have also confiscated 272,000 sq. meters in the Bethlehem area prohibiting its owners from entering their lands.

WITH U.S. ABSTAINING -

SECURITY COUNCIL TO ISRAEL: STOP SETTLEMENTS

The Security Council, with only the U.S. abstaining, on July 20, called on the government and people of Israel to halt the establishment of settlements in the Arab territories occupied since 1967. The vote

on the resolution in the 15-nation council was 14 in favor, with none against. The resolution also accepted recommendations contained in the report by the three-member commission set up by the council last March to examine the settlements question.

The three-nation body, comprising representatives of Portugal, Bolivia and Zambia, visited, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt, and also met leaders of the PLO. Israel refuses to have any dealings with the group and would not permit it to enter the occupied territories.

The commission recommended that the council, "bearing in mind the inalienable right of the Palestinians to return to their homeland, launch a pressing appeal to the government and people of Israel, drawing again their attention to the disastrous consequences which the settlement policy is bound to have on any attempt to reach a peaceful solution in the Middle East."

"In the view of the commission, as a first step, Israel should be called upon to cease on an urgent basis the establishment, construction and planning of settlements in the occu-

pled territories. The question of the existing settlements would then have to be resolved."

Regarding Jerusalem, the report said: "The Council should also call upon the government of Israel to implement faithfully Security Council resolutions adopted on that question as from 1967... The Security Council might wish to consider steps to protect and preserve the unique spiritual and religious dimension of the holy places in that city, taking into account the views of high-ranking representatives of the three religions."

133 SETTLEMENTS!

The commission continued that, according to figures it had obtained, there was a total of 133 settlements in the occupied territories, including:

- 17 in and around Jerusalem,
- 62 in the West Bank of Jordan,
- 29 in the Golan Heights, and
- 25 in the Gaza Strip and Sinai.

In the area of Jerusalem and the West Bank, where the establishment of settlements had been the most

Gush Emunim settlers at Elon Moreh aim to encircle Nablus



ZIONISM IN PRACTICE

intensive, the number of settlers had reached 90,000, and the land seized by the Israeli authorities, either especially for settlement purposes or other stated reasons, covers 27 percent of the West Bank.

The report asserted that the Palestinian population of Jerusalem and the West Bank had been reduced by 32 percent since 1967. The Palestinian inhabitants are subjected to continuous pressure to emigrate, the report said.

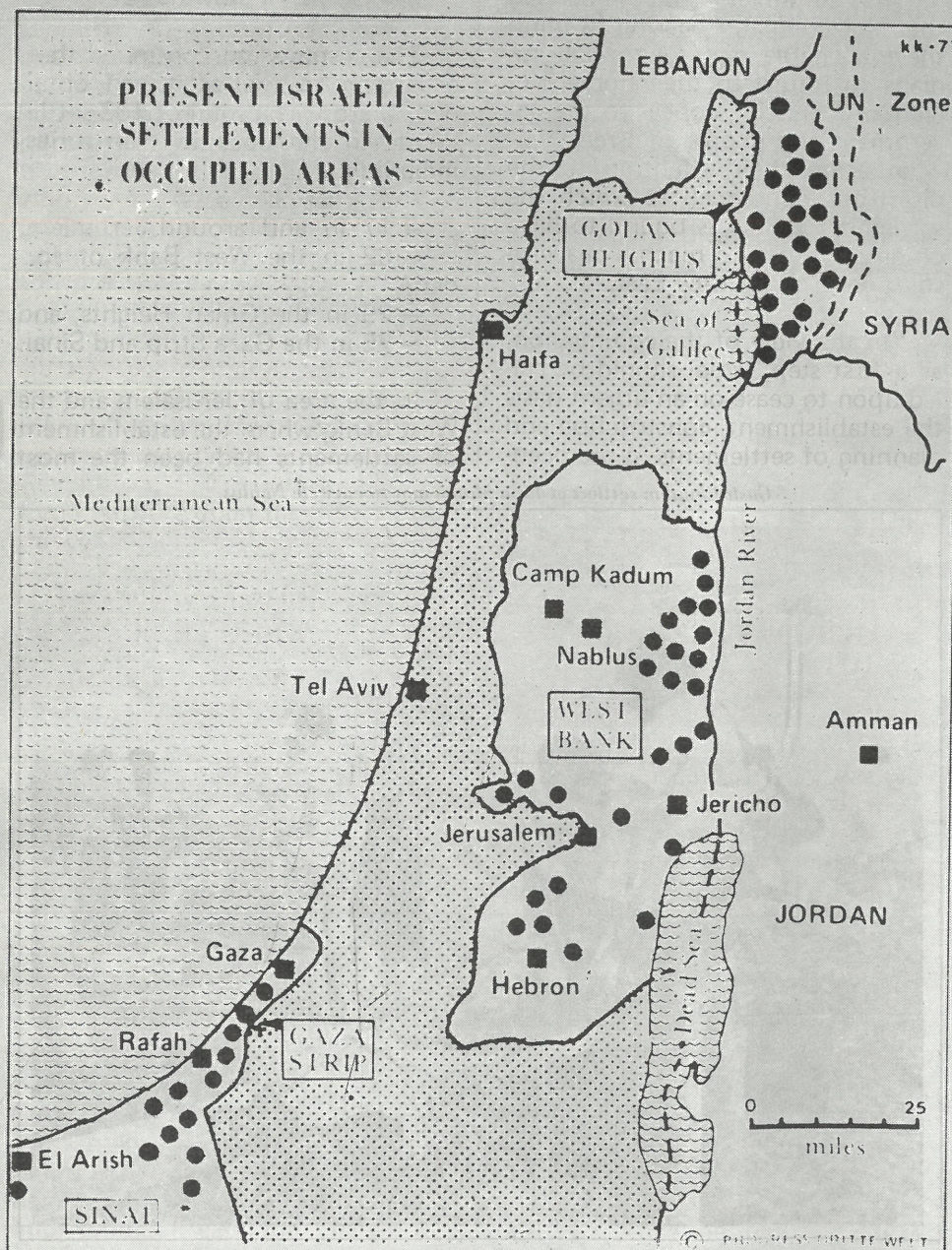
ISRAELI REJECTS RESOLUTION

The Israeli U.N. representative Yehuda Blum told the Security Council on the opening day of the debate on the report that it is "absurd and odious" and that Israel would have "nothing to do with this debate, whatever its course and outcome". He, later, issued a communique expressing Israel's objection to the resolution saying that such a resolution is detrimental to "peace" efforts in the Middle East and reiterated Israel's intention to pursue its settlement policy throughout the occupied territories.

"ISRAEL VIOLATES GENEVA CONVENTIONS"

The chairman of the commission, Portugal's deputy permanent U.N. representative, Ambassador Leonardo Mathias answered Israel's Blum saying he believed that Israel's treatment of the Palestinian refugees violated the Fourth Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilians in Time of War. While Kasuka Mutukwa of Zambia, also a commission member, said that by establishing settlements for Jews in the occupied territories, Israel is seeking to legitimize its occupation of foreign territories, and it was time for the council to put an end to "this new form of oppression" practiced by Israel.

The Council voted in favor of the resolution which requested the commission, "in view of the magnitude of settlements", to keep under close survey the implementation of the resolution and to report back before November 1. A preambular paragraph of the resolution emphasized the "need for confronting the issue of the existing settlements and the need to consider measures to safeguard the impartial protection of property seized," while another part strongly deplores Israel's lack of cooperation with the commission.



U.S. DESTABILISATION POLICY TO BACK SADAT

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

During Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Fahd's March visit to Spain for medical treatment, he received senior State Department official David Newsom at the US government's request. The US aim in this meeting was to persuade Saudi Arabia to give the treaty which Sadat had signed with the Zionists full backing, or in other words to encourage King Hussein to adhere to this treaty and, continue Saudi financing for the Sadat regime, including underwriting a \$525 million deal for its purchase of 50 F-5 aircraft.

Prince Fahd's reply to Newsom was that he did not support the idea of his country joining the Sadat-Begin axis, as this could lead to a new polarisation in the Arab World. It was the Prince's view that this could push some Arab countries opposed to the Sadat appeasement line into aligning themselves much more closely to the Soviet Union, thus undermining Arab non-alignment and forcing Arab countries to take sides unreservedly in the Cold War. To avoid this, he indicated, Saudi Arabia was following the policy of Arab solidarity exemplified by the Baghdad conference resolutions.

The Prince also posed a question: if Saudi Arabia were to join the Sadat-Begin axis, what guarantees could the United States offer for the future stability of the Gulf? This question is of particular relevance in view of Washington's proven inability to protect the Shah from revolution by the Iranian people who condemned him as a US puppet, and the more recent example of Somoza is also striking.

FAILURE OF U.S. DIPLOMACY

Newsom's failure to reply or to convince Prince Fahd was one of a series of US diplomatic failures. The US Ambassador in Jeddah and President Carter's National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brezezinski had been unable to convince the Saudi leaders to change their minds about the Sadat-Begin treaty. So had President Carter, since his invitation to King Khalid to visit him in



Anwar Sadat: waiting for U.S. salvation

Washington to discuss the problem had been declined in May.

Faced with these setbacks, the Carter administration decided to drop its attempts at diplomatic pressure on Saudi Arabia. So Mr. Carter sent King Khalid a message informing him that the United States would no longer try to persuade the Saudis to finance the F-5 deal, and would agree to separate the question of the Saudi attitude to the treaty from that of Saudi-US bilateral relations.

Saudi Arabia thus appears to have won an important diplomatic victory in its efforts to adopt a policy independent from the United States regarding the treaty. However, this victory is not a final one, since diplomatic manoeuvres over this issue have not ended, and indeed are only in an early phase.

U.S. DESTABILISATION POLICY TO BACK SADAT

THE "YEMEN TRAP"

It is clear that a major power like the United States cannot easily accept failure. Now that the policy of diplomatic persuasion has not worked, the US government has decided to follow another policy, that of destabilisation. It has recently begun to exploit weak points in the Arab World.

The weak point which can most directly threaten Saudi Arabia, owing to its geographical proximity, is the situation between the two Yemens. In this context the recent visit by Abdullah Al Asnag, the special adviser of North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Salih, to Washington is highly relevant.

In his discussions with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and a number of US officials and Congressmen, Asnag asked for American military advisers to be sent to North Yemen to reorganise and train the armed forces to use American weapons. It had earlier been agreed in principle to send a number of these advisers as part of a Saudi-financed deal under which North Yemen would obtain \$390 million worth of US arms.

Asnag agreed with US officials on the details of a programme to reorganise and train the North Yemeni army to switch over from Soviet-made to US-made weapons. The agreement included the dispatch of over 30 advisers to begin the training programme immediately.

This followed a visit to North Yemen by a US military delegation led by Major General Richard Lawrence to study the country's military requirements. Lawrence reported delays in the arrival of US arms shipment owing to their transit through Saudi Arabia — an arrangement that the Kingdom had laid down as a condition for financing the deal. So Asnag asked the US authorities to deal directly with his government on military matters, not through Saudi Arabia.

Some diplomats see this as a sign that the Saudis are aware of the danger of the "Yemen

trap". As one Western diplomat pointed out, "the United States regards the Yemen crisis as the key to changing Saudi policy, and hence the Arab situation as a whole, and to ending the isolation from which Sadat is suffering in the Arab and Islamic worlds. The Americans are trying to explode the situation between the two Yemens again. Since South Yemen is militarily stronger than North Yemen, it will win victories. This could arouse fears of a "Communist danger" among the Saudis and force them to turn to America for protection and abandon Prince Abdullah's ideas of a balanced policy between the two major powers, the United States and the Soviet Union. If so, America will impose its terms, namely Saudi support for Sadat and pressure on King Hussein to join the Sadat-Begin negotiations."

This, then, is the "Yemen trap" which the USA has set up for the Saudi leadership. It is worth noting that Abdullah Al Asnag is an old associate of Abdul Qawi Makkawi, the South Yemeni dissident living in Cairo who is organising a terrorist group for sabotage actions against the Democratic Republic of Yemen with Sadat's blessing.

VANCE'S PROMISE TO SADAT AND THE JAVITS MISSION

According to diplomatic sources, Secretary Vance promised Sadat, when they met in Beer-sheba in late May, that the US would exert efforts to end his isolation in the Arab World. Subsequently, US Zionist leader Senator Jacob Javits and Defence Undersecretary Charles Duncan visited Sudan and Morocco.

Duncan flew on to Khartoum to join Javits in talks with President Numeiry on Sudan's military needs. These resulted in an agreement that Sudan would enter a military alliance with the Sadat regime and the USA against Libya and Ethiopia. The agreement provides for \$128 million worth of US military aid to Sudan, in return for which Numeiry promised to back Sadat and seek no military aid except from the United States and the Sadat regime.

Javits negotiated with Numeiry as President Carter's personal envoy. He then went on to Morocco on a "fact-finding mission" for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, but he also presented a report to Carter indicating that King Hassan could play a useful role in ending Sadat's isolation, such as by mediating between him and "moderate" Arab governments.

After Javits' visit, King Hassan began escalating the Sahara crisis by threatening to order his armed forces to pursue Polisario guerrillas across the Algerian border. He also asked the UN Security Council to concern itself with the crisis.

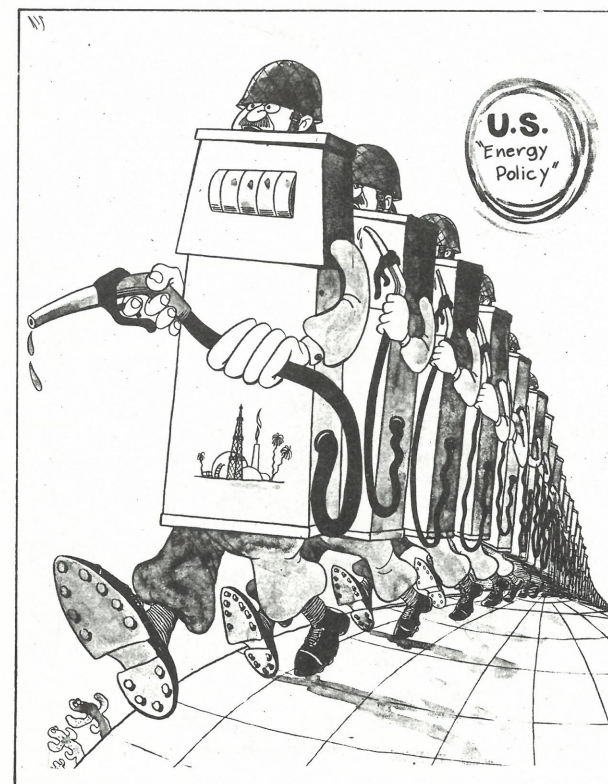
According to reliable diplomatic sources, the US government is now planning to provoke a war between Morocco and Algeria. The diplomats add that, if this plan succeeds, Sadat will try to use Libya's support for Algeria as an excuse to invade Libya, as he has often threatened.

The Lebanese newspaper, *Al Safir* reported on July 1 that Saudi Arabia recently agreed to finance "Morocco's defence needs" and asked Washington to regard it as "the political, financial and military guarantor of American arms in Morocco and the way in which they are used." The question is, can Saudi Arabia indeed guarantee how these weapons are used, despite the US plan to use them as a means to stir up a war between Arab states in North Africa?

THE WEAPON OF SECTARIANISM

The United States began implementing its plan for destabilising the Arab region in June, when a sectarian massacre occurred in Syria's Artillery School in Aleppo. This resulted in the cold-blooded murder of several dozen unarmed cadets of the Alawi sect by gunmen who were nominally Sunni Muslims. To appreciate the dangerous implications of this massacre, one must look back at recent history.

In 1956, the then Israeli Prime Minister David Ben Gurion gave the British and French governments a proposal to partition Lebanon. Under this, Israel would annex the South up to the Litani, a Maronite state would be set up in



Mount Lebanon and the coastal plain, while the Bekaa and the North would be joined to Syria after arranging a coup in Damascus to bring a pro-Western regime to power. (See *Middle East International* magazine, 8 June 1979).

Some 20 years later, during the Lebanese civil war, the then Israeli Deputy Premier Yigal Allon gave a number of American journalists an off-the-record briefing in New York. According to one journalist who attended the briefing, Allon stressed that his government was trying to "draw a new map for some Middle Eastern states," and replace Lebanon, Syria and Iraq with separate states on sectarian lines for Maronites, Druze, Alawis, Sunnis and Shiites. Allon indicated that this plan aimed at radically altering relations between Israel and other states in the region, since it would mean Israel was no longer the only sectarian state in the Middle East, but one of many.

Then, last year, the Iranian people launched their heroic uprising against the Shah's tyranny, and rose under the banner of Islam, led by the Imam Ayatullah Khomeini. Imam Khomeini and many of his associates stressed in numerous speeches and interviews that their revolution was an Islamic one, not only for the Shii sect, and that they believed in reuniting all Muslims regardless of their sectarian affiliations.

The United States has resolved to undermine the good relations between the Iranian Revolution and the Arab nation. After achieving considerable success in stirring up trouble between the Persians and the Arab minority in Khuzistan, the CIA decided to expand its plan to spread the virus from Iran to Iraq. US agents are currently making great efforts to provoke a war between these two countries, in order to secure the following gains:

- 1) To damage Arab-Iranian relations.
- 2) To weaken the Iranian Revolution and pave the way for a counter-revolution by US agents.
- 3) To provoke sectarian strife in Iraq, since an outbreak of war between the two countries could provoke reactions among Iraqi citizens of the Shii sect.
- 4) To weaken both countries militarily, in preparation for US military intervention in the Gulf. Iraq and Iran are the only two countries able to resist a US invasion of the Gulf with any degree of effectiveness. If the United States can provoke a war between them to destroy their military potential, the Gulf will become an easy prey to American designs.

U.S. DESTABILISATION POLICY TO BACK SADAT

BOOSTING THE US MILITARY PRESENCE

All these events come at a time when US officials have stated their intention of creating a 110,000-man task force to intervene in the Gulf or any other part of the Third World, and of strengthening the U.S. military presence in the Gulf, the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean.

This includes U.S. attempts to secure permanent bases and facilities for the Sixth Fleet in Egypt, occupied Palestine, Turkey and Cyprus. During a recent visit by Sixth Fleet units to Haifa, Begin declared his readiness to offer the U.S. fleet the facilities it needs, and hinted that Sadat was willing to offer similar facilities in Alexandria. Some observers expect U.S. moves to topple the Ecevit government in Turkey and replace it with one more pliable to Washington's demands for bases. The weapon of sectarian

strife which the CIA used in Kahraman Maras is still available as a means of pressure on the Turkish government to this end. And the British government is currently trying to persuade Cyprus to allow U.S. forces to be stationed officially in Akrotiri base. The USA demonstrated its ability to explode the situation in Cyprus in 1974, and may resort to this means if the Cypriot government refuses to submit to its demands.

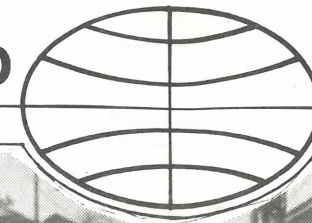
The U.S. Defence Department has been studying options for strengthening the U.S. military presence in the Gulf and Indian Ocean, and has been drawing up plans for this. Options include the formation of a permanent Indian Ocean fleet, the dispatch of military aircraft to visit Gulf states at regular intervals and increasing naval and air forces.

The USA will thus be ready to intervene in the Gulf at the appropriate time, and may use the recent OPEC oil price rises as an excuse. NATO's new commander in Europe, General Bernard Rogers, openly favours such intervention. And the balance of power within U.S. ruling circles is in favour of the extreme right wing which calls for direct intervention "to protect America's vital interests". In the Carter administration, this wing is represented by Brzezinski, Defence Secretary Harold Brown, Energy Secretary James Schlesinger and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General David Jones.



U.S. use of Akrotiri base: part of plan to increase military presence

WORLD EVENTS



Population of Managua celebrates their liberation

FREEDOM COMES TO NICARAGUA

"Never has the sun shone so brightly," declared a twenty-year-old student to an American reporter on July 20, as the guerillas of the FSLN (the Sandinistas) marched triumphantly into Managua, Nicaragua's capital city. Tens of thousands of Managua's besieged population were in the streets to greet them, shouting "Long live democratic Nicaragua!" and "The people united can never be defeated!" The dictatorship of the Somoza family, whose 45 year rule was stamped by corruption, terror and grinding poverty for the majority of Nicaraguans, was at long last over. Somoza's feared National Guard had literally collapsed in the last days of battle: at the end, eighteen unarmed Sandinistas took over the Managua airport from hundreds of National Guard soldiers.

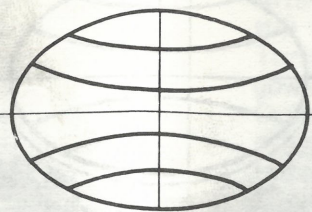
The bitter war had taken a heavy toll. The Red Cross estimated about 50,000 dead since the revolution broke out in September, 1978:

thousands died this May alone when the National Guard bombed the eastern barrios of Managua. About 600,000 Nicaraguans are refugees; there are 50,000 new orphans. Despite this, the Nicaraguan people are not bent on revenge on Somoza's supporters. Newsweek magazine reported on the trial of two Somoza spies in a rural province. After one woman told the revolutionary judges that "We've seen enough blood. Let them go," the judges polled the audience and released the prisoners.

This spirit of democracy is reflected in the new junta, which is composed of five persons representing different strands of the popular opposition to Somoza. In its first act, it cancelled the repressive Somoza constitution and proclaimed an "estado fundamental," or basic law, that guarantees full respect for human rights, unconditional equality of all citizens, full freedom of opinion and religion, and all rights to political and trade union organizations. The junta, which has also moved to expropriate the Somoza fortune, estimated at one billion dollars, will govern Nicaragua, along

with a 33-person state council composed of representatives from all political, democratic and union organizations, until elections for a National Assembly can be held.

The United States, which placed the Somoza dynasty in power and maintained it with arms shipments and economic aid, backed away from Somoza as his control over Nicaragua slipped, but its attitude toward the revolutionary government remains cautious, and U.S. intervention is still a possibility feared by the new Nicaraguan leaders. Despite the fact that U.S. policy in Latin America has consistently sponsored dictators, the *New York Times* of July 24 dared to attribute the rise of democracy in Nicaragua to the "contagious spread of the U.S.-sponsored human rights campaign." In fact, the revolution in Nicaragua is a signal that the time of the U.S.-sponsored dictators, and the U.S. corporations that plunder Latin America, is over. In the words of Sergio Ramirez Mercado, head of the five person ruling council: "Now we will make a revolution that will serve as an example for all Latin America."



PROTESTS AGAINST MUZOREWA'S VISITS TO U.S. AND BRITAIN

Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the "Premier" of the Salisbury puppet regime, visited the United States and Britain this July in an attempt to lift the economic sanctions and receive official recognition of the regime by Western powers. The African states in the United Nations characterized Muzorewa's reception in these two countries as a "direct violation of the relevant U.N. Security Council Resolutions." The African group said that the goal of these activities by the U.S. and Britain was to consolidate the settler-controlled regime and ultimately lead to its official recognition.

Moreover, members of 15 progressive organizations in the U.S. staged a demonstration in New York in protest against the reception of Muzorewa. They carried banners demanding "Down with racists and their supporters". In London, as the British Prime Minister, Mrs. Thatcher, and the Foreign Secretary, Lord Carrington, were holding talks with Bishop Muzorewa, demonstrators marched outside Ten Downing Street protesting at the recognition given to the Salisbury

regime. Meanwhile, a member of the Patriotic Front was arrested.

The anti-apartheid movement also issued a statement protesting the meeting. It declared that the action of the British government in granting immunity to bishop Muzorewa was in effect giving de facto recognition to the Muzorewa regime.

It noteworthy, however, that Zimbabwe has rich resources in chromium and copper which make it particularly attractive to U.S. and Britain. For decades, the latter's corporations and big banks have been participating in plundering Zimbabwe.

O.A.U. SUMMIT SOLIDIFIES SUPPORT FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA LIBERATION

The sixteenth summit meeting of the heads of state and government of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) was held in Monrovia, Liberia this July, to discuss the burning political and economic problems of Africa. The resolutions taken by the summit meeting re-

red an important contribution to closer cooperation of the OAU member countries. This finds expression above all in the positions on Zimbabwe, South Africa and Namibia.

The summit resolutely rejected the illegal Muzorewa regime and, by giving sole recognition to the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe and expressing support for the armed struggle, essentially strengthened the Front against Salisbury. Its unequivocal siding with the struggle of SWAPO in Namibia and rejection of all attempts by South Africa to install a puppet regime in Namibia are an important result, as is its pillorying of the South Africa-Israel axis and of the nuclear collaboration between the Western powers, including the Federal Republic of Germany, and Pretoria.

In approving of resolutions envisaging increased political and material support for the liberation movements and the frontline states, the summit took further important measures. The formation of a commission, which is to further develop the strategy of the liberation struggle, is of great importance to the final elimination of the racist regimes.

For the first time questions of the economic development of Africa were given broad space at an OAU summit. The reason for this was above all the realization that the economic development of the continent is of prime importance for the continued successful struggle for the liberation of Africa. Concerning the Middle East question, the summit confirmed the African people's demand for a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement. It denounced the continuing annexationist policy of Israel as well as all separate and partial solutions which violate the recognized rights of the Arab people of Palestine. The summit declared its full support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Arab states.



New York City protest slams Muzorewa's visit

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD:

PALESTINIAN CHILDREN CONFRONT LEARNING PROBLEMS

The bitter conditions the Palestinian people live under are reflected in the problems facing Palestinian schoolchildren. Not only are these children destined to share with their families the hardships of life in the refugee camps, but they must also face obstacles to their learning and education due to the continuous Zionist raids and bombardments of Palestinian camps.

Palestinian children in refugee camps are usually deprived of the facilities necessary for their education and upbringing. Neither do they live in an atmosphere that enables them to study and learn well. Very often, a Palestinian child has eight to ten brothers and sisters, all of whom are crowded into a house of only two or three small rooms. These must serve as the sitting room, dining room, bedroom and kitchen all at once. A familiar scene in Palestinian camps is a mother doing her cooking or washing with a small baby clinging to her dress, while the other children lie flat on the floor studying.

In addition to overcrowding, there are often other things that prevent a child from studying during the daytime, such as work and family responsibilities. Thus he must sit up late at night and read by inadequate light, provided by weak electrical lightbulbs or oil lamps. This is a tedious and boring routine, especially in winter. The child's concentration is often disrupted by the noise of rain falling on the corrugated metal roof of his house, and flooding in the lanes around it. In addition, winter brings with it cold nights, and many children do not have the clothing necessary to keep them warm.

PROBLEMS OF SCHOOLS

Schools for Palestinian children are usually run by UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. Unfortunately, however, the "relief" that UNRWA offers to Palestinian children amounts to only \$2.00 per month per person. Most UNRWA schools are located in old apartment buildings, where pupils sometimes

have to pass through two or three other classrooms to get to their own. Much worse is the fact that many of these classrooms are poorly lit, and surrounded by other buildings. Thus, classrooms are often dark even in the middle of the day, and if the electricity should be out, pupils cannot identify anything written on the blackboard, nor can they read the books in front of them. The playground is small, and often does not exceed 300 square meters in area for about 300 pupils, i.e., approximately one square meter per child.

Another problem that effects the process of learning is the double, and sometimes triple, shift system maintained in UNRWA schools. This system has been chosen by UNRWA to cope with the rising number of students, in preference to renting additional classroom space. Under this procedure two schools, in effect, occupy the same building, each for half of a day. The schools alternate every week between morning and afternoon shifts. This has several disadvantages for the child:

First: In the double shift system, each of the six daily periods is 40 minutes long. These six periods are broken by one 20-minute recess. The 40-minute period is in fact usually reduced to 30 minutes of effective teaching time, during which an average of about 30 pupils are supposed to study a certain subject. Most of the double shift teachers complain of being cut short, unable to finish giving their lessons.

Second: The double shift system transforms the teacher-pupil relationship into a merely mechanical one of giving and receiving information. The human aspects of the teaching profession are hindered, for teachers do not have the opportunity to learn about their students as individuals, and to take into consideration the special needs and problems they may have. This is particularly tragic in UNRWA schools, for there are no psychological counselors in these schools to help students, especially teenagers,



PALESTINIAN CHILDREN CONFRONT LEARNING PROBLEMS

cope with their personal problems. UNRWA still insists that psychology and sociology are not legitimate teaching subjects in UNRWA schools, and thus ignore the pupils' psychological and social needs.

Third: The disadvantages of the double shift system are detrimental to the pupils' health. Owing to the change in their school hours, in one week they have to wake up early to go to classes, while in the next week they can sleep late because their classes start at noon. This is also reflected in their meal schedules. One week they have breakfast at 6:30 AM and lunch at 12:30, while the next week they can have their

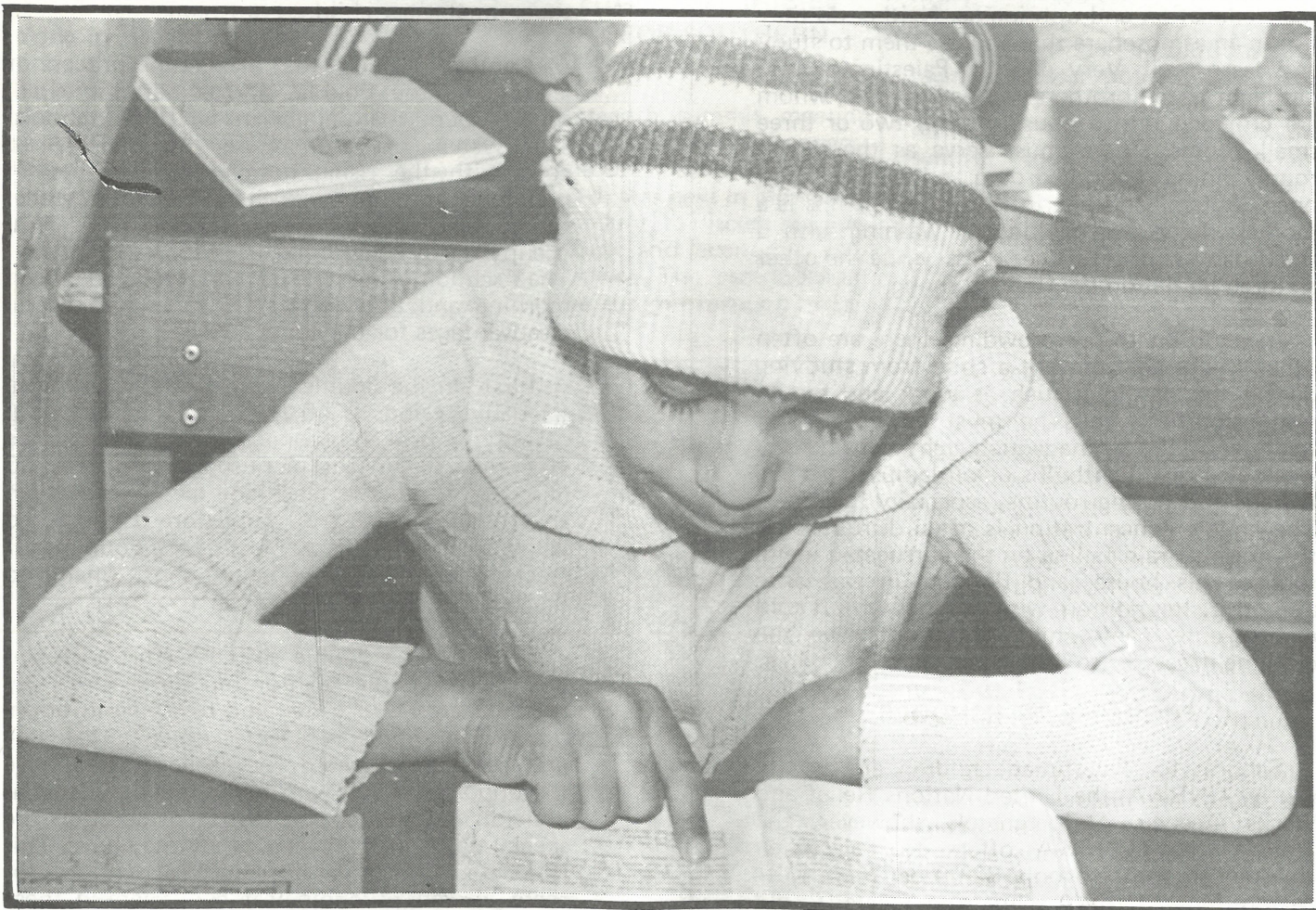
breakfast at any time until 11:00, and their next meal at about 5:00 P.M. One can imagine the problems a mother faces when she has children who go to school during different shifts.

BOOKS AND STATIONERY

A recurrent problem that Palestinian children face at the start of each academic year is a shortage of books and stationery. These are provided by UNRWA, but very often they are only available after a delay of two or three months. Meanwhile, pupils must use old, worn-out books used by other pupils in previous years, even though some books have pages and even entire lessons missing. Due to the lack of stationery, students have no copybooks to do written exercises in.

THREAT OF ZIONIST RAIDS

All of the above-mentioned problems which Palestinian children face have their roots in the expulsion of the Palestinian people from their homeland after the creation of the Zionist state. As refugees in neighboring countries, they have no government which looks after their own particular needs.



UNRWA Schools: overcrowded and poorly-equipped



House of "Soumoud" Kindergarten helps children from Tal al Zaatar develop educational and social skills

The Zionist policy of annihilation directed against the Palestinian people in the refugee camps is the most dangerous problem faced by Palestinian schoolchildren. For example, the raids on Palestinian camps in the early 1970s resulted in the destruction of the school of the Nabatiya camp. Schoolchildren, such as Mansour Sarsour of Rashidiya camp, and five others in Nahr al-Bared camp, have been killed by Zionist air attacks while studying in the fields near their camps. They thought that the fields would be quiet places to study, more conducive to learning than the crowded camps themselves.

In the camps of South Lebanon, students in class are often frightened by Israeli jet-fighters which swoop over their heads. During their attack against south Lebanon in March 1978, the Israeli aggressors deliberately shelled the primary school of Rashidiya camp. It is difficult to imagine how those children can grasp and understand the lesson presented by the teacher when they must think of the deadly planes overhead. Children are also distracted from learning in camps, such as Rashidiya, al-Bus and Burj al-Shamali, where they can see Israeli

gunboats not far off the shore. They must live with tension and fear, and can hardly be expected to learn under such circumstances.

These problems become more complicated when children must leave the camp with their families to seek refuge from shelling. Sometimes schools remain closed for two or three weeks until life in the camps returns to normal.

Some of those who flee the shelling of their camps go to other, safer camps. Refugees usually take shelter in schools. Therefore, most Palestinian camps must often suspend classes, either due to Israeli attacks or the necessity of housing refugees.

With all of this, it is clear that the problems of Palestinian children are a reflection of the problems of the Palestinian people as a whole. These problems can be solved only by the return of our people to their homeland, and the establishment of an independent state where they will have their own national government to look after the needs of themselves and their children.

SOLIDARITY

ABU JIHAD MEETS NICARAGUAN DELEGATION

Abu Jihad, member of the Fateh Central Committee and the General Command of the Assifa forces, met on July 30 with a delegation of the Nicaraguan Sandinista Revolution, which had arrived in Beirut two days ago on a special visit to the Palestinian Revolution. The Nicaraguan delegation consists of Dr. Rufilio Ramirit Mirakade, member of the Sandinista National Liberation Front and governmental advisor as well as Col. Tchapit, special envoy and governmental advisor to the National Reconstruction government.

During the meeting, to be followed by several other meetings, both sides discussed the destructive role played by the Israeli enemy against the Nicaraguan people by supporting the Somoza regime and supplying it with weapons. The two parties also discussed the militant relations between the Sandinist and Palestinian Revolutions, the means to develop these relations, following the liberation of Nicaragua, and Fateh's relations with the Front and with Liberation Movements in Latin America.

The Nicaraguan delegation confirmed that the new Reconstruction Government which has been formed following the victory of the Nicaraguan Revolution is considering the severing of diplomatic relations with Israel and the recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The delegation stressed that relations between Nicaragua and the Arab states will improve on all levels, and expressed its desire to benefit from the Palestinian Revolution's experience in the building of a popular army in Nicaragua.

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN URGES CARTER TO SUPPORT WEST BANK MAYORS

On July 20, the Palestine Human Rights Campaign (PHRC) in



Chairman Arafat receives Sandinista delegation

Washington, D.C. presented a statement to President Carter urging him to "intervene" on behalf of Palestinian mayors in the occupied West Bank. West Bank mayors are currently being harassed by the Israeli Military authorities, who have denied them exit visas for necessary trips abroad, harassed them personally, and threatened them with trials in military courts for their protests against Israeli land confiscation and increased repression in the West Bank. The statement said: "We call on President Carter to make a positive gesture of commitment to safeguard the freedom of movement and free political expression and association of elected Palestinians in the occupied territories."

In late July, the PHRC also hosted a "Welcome Home, Terre" party in Washington, D.C. to greet returned political prisoner Terre Fleener, who was recently released from Israeli prisons. Fleener has pledged to continue working for the rights of the Palestinian people and will write a book about her experience.

BRITISH LABOR PARTY DELEGATION VISITS PALESTINIAN INSTITUTIONS

A delegation of the youth organization of the British Labor Party visited Palestinian institutions in Beirut in late July as part of a fact-finding tour. They paid a comprehensive visit to all Samed factories in Beirut and its suburbs, where they observed the course of work and the different productive units of the Samed institutions. After the tour, a member of the delegation delivered a speech in which he expressed his deep appreciation of Samed's role, and stated that Samed proves to the world the ability of the human being to work collectively, and to achieve human justice.

The British delegation also experienced the savagery of Israeli air raids on South Lebanon during a visit to the Lebanese village of Sarafand on July 22. They strongly condemned the attack they witnessed on civilians, which resulted in several civilian deaths. They also expressed the hope that British policy to-

wards the Middle East would change to recognize the rights of the Palestinian people.

The delegation also paid a visit to the Palestine Red Crescent Society and witnessed other social and economic projects of the Palestinian revolution.

SOCIALIST COUNTRIES CONFIRM SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN LEGITIMATE RIGHTS

During the UN Economic and Social Council's session held on July 26 in Geneva, the representatives of the Socialist Countries called in a Joint communique for the

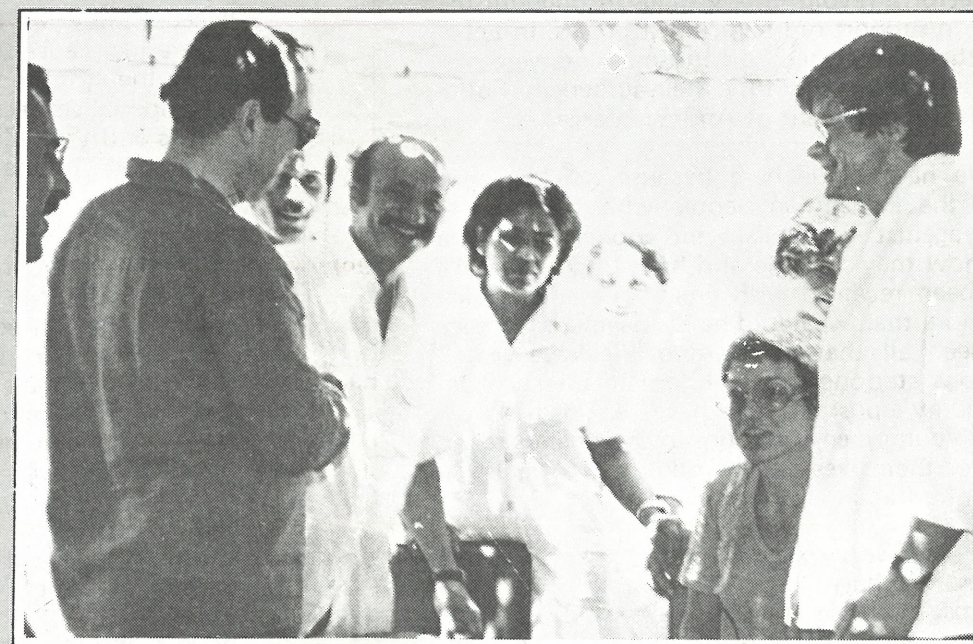
complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, and the achievement of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the establishment of an independent state, the right to return and to self-determination.

The Bulgarian, Yugoslav, G.D.R., Mongolia, Polish, U.S.S.R. and Hungarian delegations confirmed that the Egyptian-Israeli unilateral agreements have paved the way for direct imperialist infiltrations in Arab internal affairs, which will undoubtedly lead to an escalation of the arms race in the Middle East.

The joint communique also con-

firmed the impossibility of laying down long-term plans in search of a solution to the economic and social problems of the region or the preparation of any program for the U.N. Committee for Middle Eastern affairs unless permanent peace is achieved.

The representatives of the Socialist Countries reiterated their support for a reconvening of the Geneva Conference for peace in the Middle East which could possibly offer the appropriate and necessary circumstances for the achievement of a comprehensive settlement to the Middle East conflict.



Dr. Fathi Arafat (center) and Rashidiyeh clinic staff receive medical aid from Austrian Ambassador

AUSTRIAN AID TO PALESTINIAN CHILDREN

The Austrian Ambassador to Lebanon, Herbert Army, presented medical supplies to Dr. Fathi Arafat, President of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, on July 31. The supplies, which were delivered by the Ambassador to the clinic at Rashidiyeh camp in South Lebanon, are a gift to Palestinian chil-

dren.

The Ambassador was received by the staff of the clinic, which is run by Swedish and Norwegian doctors and nurses as a solidarity project with the Palestinian people. Rashidiyeh has been under almost continual bombardment by the Israeli isolationist forces for the last three months, and health problems, including respiratory and other infec-

tions from spending the night in air raid shelters, have developed among the Rashidiyeh population.

The medical supplies were donated by the youth movement of the ruling Austrian Socialist Party, which last April sent a delegation to visit Palestinian camps at the invitation of the Palestine Liberation Organization.



Andracs Varga: our songs are weapons in the struggle

HUNGARIAN MUSICIANS IN SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINE: "OUR TIES ARE UNBREAKABLE"

In July, two Hungarian performers visited Palestinian institutions in Lebanon. Andracs Varga, a singer with the Hungarian Opera in Budapest, and his accompanist, a classical pianist, formed the "Che Guevara" singing group, and perform revolutionary songs throughout the world in support of liberation struggles. In Lebanon, they performed fifteen times and were met with great enthusiasm by their audiences. Following is the statement of Andracs Varga:

"We have come here because we like very much the Palestinian people who fight a just battle against imperialism and Zionism. We have seen how they struggle and how they work. We have been received with great love and cordiality, more than we could have imagined. We have also seen all that we wanted. We have visited positions stationed some kilometers away from the enemy's positions. We have beheld the Palestinian young men with guns in their hands ready to offer their lives for the sake of the establishment of a free independent Palestine.

"All this was exceptional for us as artists, because we have not seen such things in our life-time. Our solidarity concerts were very well attended and the spirit of the audience overwhelmed us. We have organized 15 concerts which displayed friendship between the Hungarian and the Palestinian peoples.

"We feel very happy because we have met with Comrade Yassir Arafat who inspired us. We have in addition to Comrade Arafat other friends like Fidel Castro and the late good friend Che Guevara. Comrade Arafat is a very great man because he honestly leads his people. We are quite sure that the PLO and Comrade Arafat will achieve in the future a situation in which Palestine will be free. As long as Palestine is not

liberated, peace in this area will not prevail.

"As for me, it was moving to see how the Palestinian people live in hard conditions. Palestinian children do not enjoy their youth, because when they reach the age of 11 or 12, they are concerned with liberating their future homeland by the guns they carry. In Tyre, I met a child, known as Shibani, who was about 12 years old. As for me, this child is small only in his size, not his heart. I hope to meet him in Budapest where he can rest because he has carried out heroic operations against the enemy that the older fighters cannot perform. He resisted the occupation authorities at the age of 11-12 and knocked down some Israeli soldiers. He sacrifices and exposes his life to danger because he is quite sure that his people fight for a just cause which will succeed at the long run.

"During World War II, fascist Germans attempted to occupy the Soviet Union, but all the honest peoples of the world knew that they would fail, because the Soviet Union was on the right path. Now the fascist Israelis want to do the same thing, or, to be frank, they have been able to occupy all of Palestine. All honest peoples of the world, however, also know that the just struggle of the Palestinians will triumph, because they are also on the right path. They have a just cause to liberate their homeland. We know the struggle will be long and hard, because all imperialists, especially the American imperialists and their Zionist allies, who are found in many parts of the world, give aid to the fascist Israelis.

"We consider ourselves volunteers for the PLO. This means that in the future we will always talk and sing for a free Palestine. We will hold concerts in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Mongolia, Angola, Democratic Republic of Yemen, Mozambique and Madagascar. This is something which highly pleases us.

"After the friendly reception we have received, we will say everywhere that the whole world is good but be sure to regard what happens in Palestine. The Israeli occupiers annihilate a free nation; they detain women, destroy houses and kill children with all sorts of weapons. We have seen the enemy's jets strafing the mountains with our own eyes. Fabricated stories henceforth will no more deceive us.

"Now we depart from you but the ties between us will remain unbreakable. With art and songs, we will serve the Palestinian revolutionaries. Art is also a struggle through which we will strive against Zionism, Imperialism and Capitalism. Our songs are weapons that will continue to struggle against colonialism. As Lenin put it: "The song is the spirit of the people. The song is the legacy of the people."

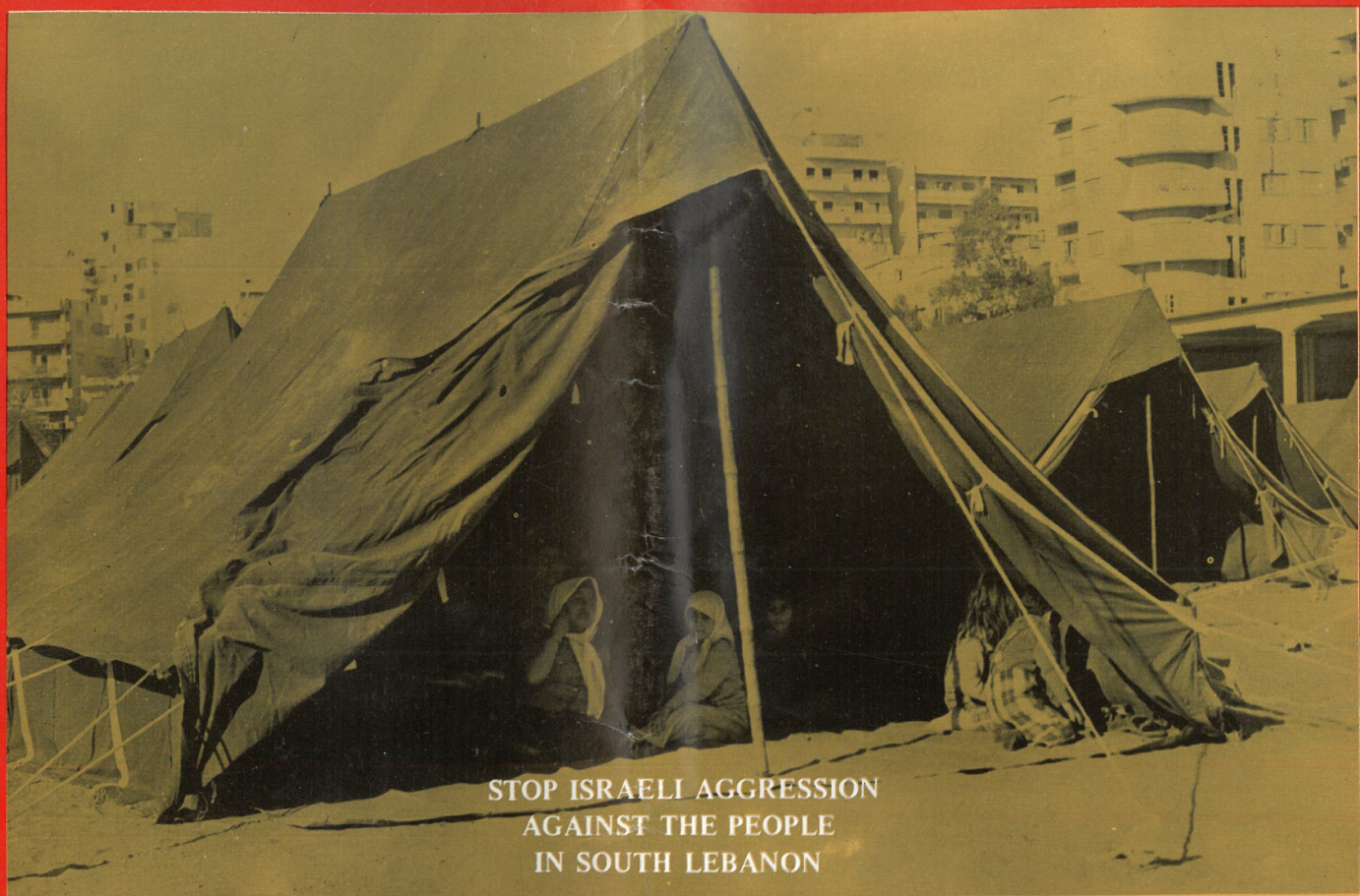
POEM:

THE SEED KEEPERS

BY FAWZI TURKI

Burn our land
burn our dream
pour acid onto our songs
cover with sawdust
the blood of our massacred people
muffle with your technology
the screams of our imprisoned patriots,
destroy,
destroy
our grass and soil
raze to the ground
every farm and every village
our ancestors had built,
destroy every city and every town
every tree and every home
every book and every law,
flatten with your bombs
every valley
erase with our edicts
our past,
our literature
our metaphor,
denude the forests
and the earth
till no insect
no word
can find a place to hide.
Do that and more,
I do not fear your tyranny.
I guard one seed
of a tree
my forefathers have saved
that I shall plant again
in my homeland.

(Painting by Suleiman Mansour)



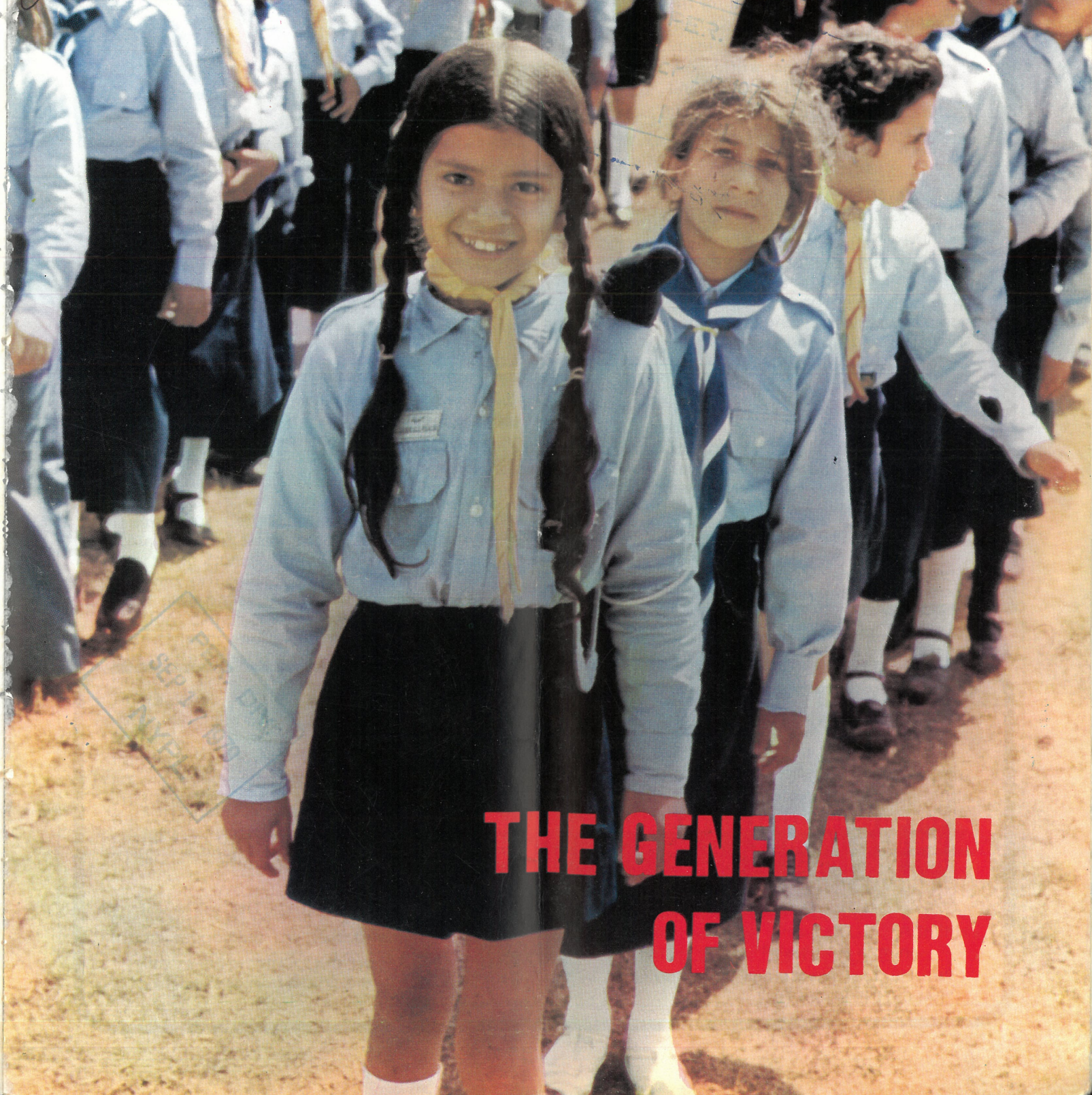
STOP ISRAELI AGGRESSION
AGAINST THE PEOPLE
IN SOUTH LEBANON



Palestine

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THE GENERATION
OF VICTORY