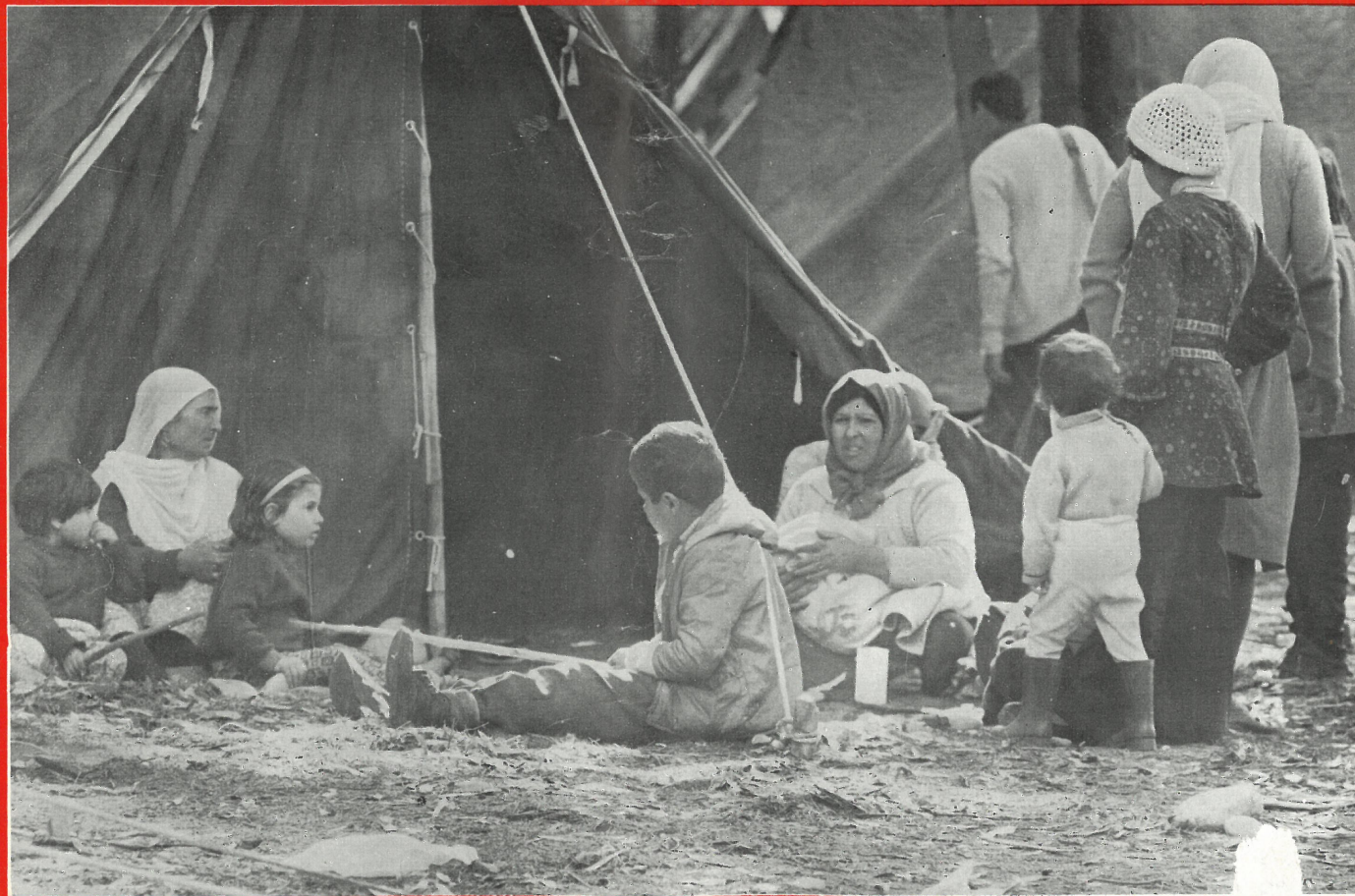


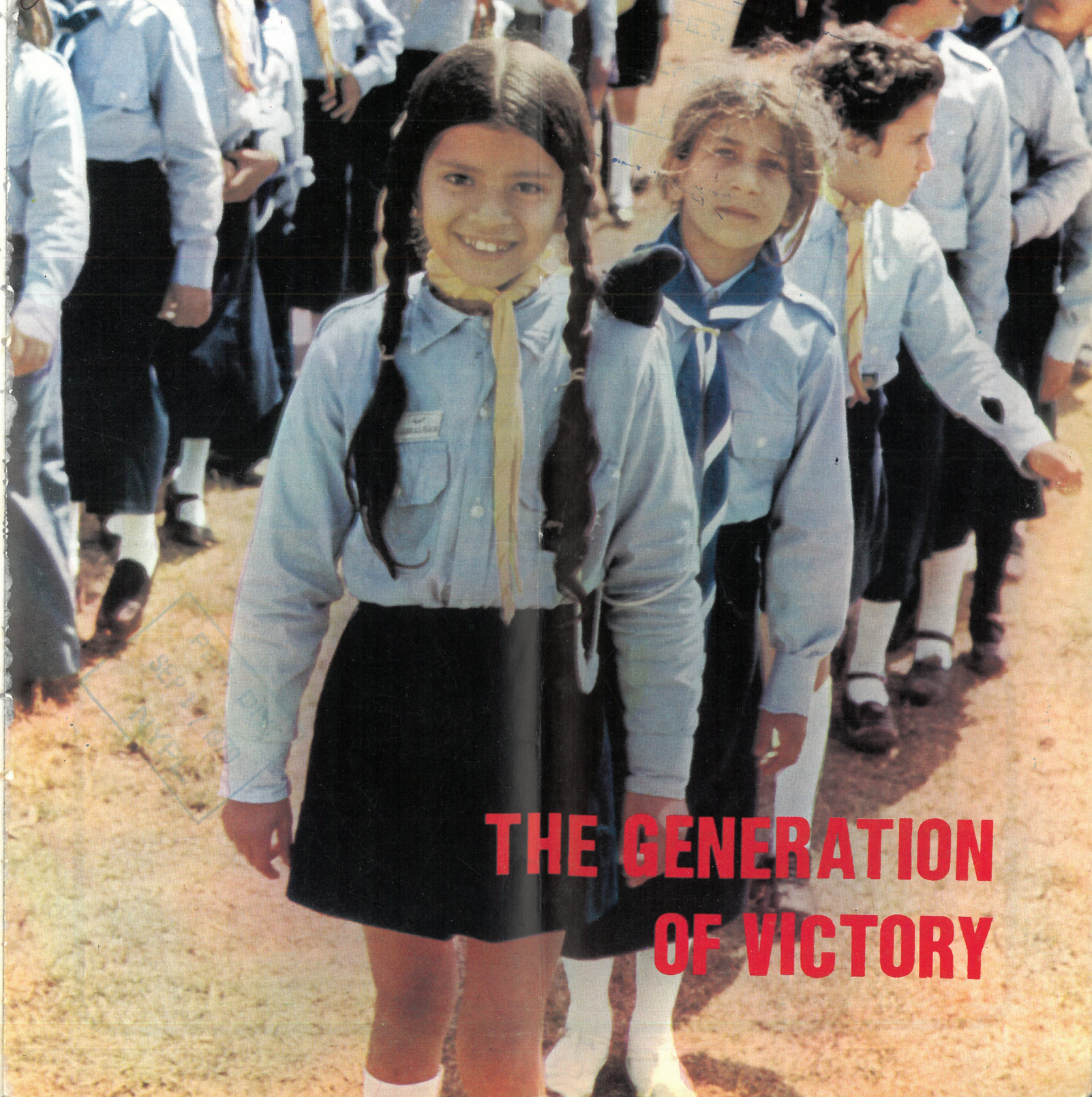
STOP ISRAELI AGGRESSION
AGAINST THE PEOPLE
IN SOUTH LEBANON



Palestine

P.L.O.
information
bulletin

Vol. 5, No. 15
16-31 August, 1979



THE GENERATION
OF VICTORY

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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Palestine

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EDITORIAL

U.S. ADMINISTRATION IN DISARRAY

Once again, the U.S. Administration has proved to be weak and indecisive. With the Andrew Young affair and his forced resignation, everyone in the world has come to realize that the U.S. President cannot stand up to Zionist pressure on the White House. The U.S. Ambassador to the UN, who is also a prominent and respected Black leader, was fired only because he met with a PLO official for fifteen or twenty minutes in New York. What a crime!

President Carter, since the inception of his Administration, has designated himself as the advocate of human rights all over the globe. Oppressed people may have seen in him a "savior" and hoped a new dawn is coming. But after thirty-one months of performance at the White House, everyone is convinced that the "savior" needs to be saved.

President Carter deviated from his declared principles and succumbed to the objectives of the strong Zionist lobby in the U.S. In the battle between principles and politics, the U.S. President gave preference to his own interests as an election campaigner. He dropped one of his closest friends and advisors, Andrew Young, who met with Palestinians, and brushed aside the Palestine cause, which is certainly a human rights issue, in the hope of securing Zionist votes and financial support. President Carter is following the same line as his predecessors. Former U.S. Presidents uniformly adopted a hostile policy towards Palestine, and all took into consideration the strong Zionist lobby in the country. It was President Truman who once justified his overt bias towards Israel by saying: "There aren't six million Arabs in the U.S."

Last week, the U.S. Government was not even capable of passing a Security Council resolution supporting the Palestinian right of self-determination. In order to avoid any vote in the

Security Council, they postponed the session for an indefinite time. What a brave campaigner for human rights!

For the U.S. Administration, the Palestine issue is still a taboo. No U.S. President is in a position to support the just cause of the Palestinians, nor is he allowed to do so. The Zionist watchdog always has his eyes open. Zionist blackmailing continues to have the upperhand in the U.S. Administration. The Zionists influence U.S. policy, even against the will of the American people.

When the Israelis step up their vicious attacks on South Lebanon, and hit civilian target using U.S. weapons, nobody can stop them. State Department spokesman Tom Reston was not "sure" whether the U.S. planes and weapons used to kill Lebanese and Palestinian civilians on August 20 were in fact, U.S.-made. What a ridiculous statement!

The U.S. President doesn't care how much blood is spilled in South Lebanon, but he cares instead about the votes to win the upcoming Presidential election. Human lives are cheaper than human votes. He does not care about the destroyed towns and villages, about the thousands of killed or wounded women and children, or about the hundreds of thousands of refugees.

With the Andrew Young affair, the Palestine Question was transferred from a U.S. foreign policy problem to a U.S. domestic problem. Millions of honest U.S. citizens started to understand the justice of the Palestine cause and are ready to support it. The Palestine Question is not only a fact in the Middle East, but it is becoming, little by little, a fact within American society. Whether the present U.S. Administration wants it or not, Palestine is coming.

PALESTINE NOTES



BREZHNEV SENDS CONGRATULATIONS ON OCCASION OF ARAFAT'S 50th BIRTHDAY

On the occasion of his 50th birthday, Chairman Arafat who was born in 1929 in Jerusalem, received congratulations from various heads of state and other political leaders, organizations and friends. Among the many congratulations came a message and a personal gift sent by Soviet President and First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Leonid Brezhnev, which was delivered by the Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon, Alexander Soldatov, on August 4, 1979. President Brezhnev, in his message, wished Chairman Arafat good health and further success. He also said that the Soviet people support his brave struggle at the head of the PLO, which defends the vital interests of the Palestinian people and their right to establish a state and to fight against imperialism and its lackeys. Brezhnev also reiterated in his message that the USSR would remain a loyal friend and firm ally of the Palestinian and Arab people in their struggle to realize their legitimate rights and achieve peace in the Middle East based on a compre-

hensive and just settlement with the participation of all concerned parties. He then praised Arafat's contribution to boost Palestinian-Soviet relations and to consolidate Arab-Soviet friendship and cooperation.

ARAFAT RECEIVES TWO LETTERS FROM THE POPE

Chairman Arafat received on July 27 two letters from the Pope concerning the situation in the Middle East and the case of the Archbishop Hilarion Capucci. In his letters, the Pope expressed his sympathy towards the suffering of the Palestinian people, and reiterated his support for a just solution for the Palestinian question and for the problem of the Holy City of Jerusalem.

ARAFAT MEETS U.N. UNDER-SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS

Chairman Arafat received on July 31 United Nations Under-Secretary for Political Affairs, Brian Urquhart with whom he discussed the situation in South Lebanon, Zionist military aggressions there, the latest Security Council session and stands of member states at the United Nations. Mr. Urquhart did

not put forth a plan for a ceasefire in South Lebanon because Palestinian commando operations are not launched from South Lebanon as has already been confirmed by the PLO.

ARAFAT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM MOZAMBIQUE PRESIDENT

Chairman Arafat received on August 1, a message from President Samora Machel of Mozambique, reaffirming the friendly relations between Mozambique and the Palestinian Revolution. The message asserted the firm stand of Mozambique with the Palestinian people and their right to return, to self-determination and to establish their independent state.

PALESTINIAN-CZECH JOINT SEMINAR ON RACISM AND COLONIALISM

A PLO delegation headed by Abdallah Hourani, General Director of Information and Culture of the PLO; and including Mahmoud Darwish, Chief Editor of Palestine Affairs, and Atef Abu Bakr, the PLO representative in Prague, met on August 1, with representatives of the Czechoslovak "Peace and Socialism" magazine. The meeting dealt with preparations for a seminar, jointly organized by the magazine and the PLO, on racism and colonialism which is to be held in early 1980.

The PLO office in Prague also recently organized a literary evening where the Palestinian writer Dr. Emile Habibi spoke about the role of Literature in the occupied territories and exposed the hardships suffered by the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation, as well as the policy of "Judaization" and racial discrimination against the Palestinians in territories occupied in 1948. Ahmed Dehbour, the Palestinian poet participating in this literary evening, recited a number of his stirring national poems.

ARAFAT SENDS MESSAGE TO TURKISH PREMIER

Chairman Arafat sent on August 5 a message to the Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit. The message, delivered by Abu Firas, head of the Palestinian delegation currently visiting Turkey, dealt with developing bilateral relations between the PLO and the Turkish Government.

PLO OFFICE TO BE OPENED IN ANKARA

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) will open an office in Ankara shortly under an agreement which reflects a steady shift in Turkey's Middle East policy. A delegation from the Palestine Liberation Organization and Turkish officials started negotiations in Ankara on August 1, 1979 on opening the office there, following a Foreign Ministry statement which said that the Turkish Government had agreed to allow a PLO office in the Turkish capital after talks between Turkish leaders and the PLO. The talks were believed to have been part of an agreement between Chairman Arafat and Turkish Premier Bulent Ecevit. The Turkish Premier has stepped up relations with his Moslem and Arab neighbours in recent months in a reflection of Turkey's shift of interests towards the Arab World. Turkish newspapers reported on August 6 that Ankara had agreed to give full diplomatic status to the PLO office. The Head of the PLO's Political Department, Farouk Kaddoumi is expected to sign the agreement later this August. Kaddoumi's deputy, Abu Firas, is expected to head the new Ankara Office.

EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES WITH SENEGAL

Chairman Arafat sent an important message to Senegalese President Leopold Senghor about the

latest developments in the Middle East. The message was delivered to the President by a special envoy in July. On August 7, Arafat met in Beirut the Senegalese Ambassador Mustapha Sese, who, in turn, delivered to him a personal message from Senegalese President Leopold Senghor. The message deals with bilateral relations between the PLO and Senegal, and the latest developments in the area. In the message, the Senegalese President confirmed his country's stand with the just struggle of the Palestinian people to regain their national rights.

ARAFAT RECEIVES SOVIET ENGINEERING DELEGATION

Chairman Arafat received a delegation of the Soviet Engineering Association headed by its Vice President on August 6. The visit, attended by Marwan Abdel-Hamid, Secretary of the General Union of Palestinian Engineers, and by Adnan Samra, his deputy, is part of the cultural cooperation agreement between the General Union of Palestinian Engineers and the Soviet Engineering Association. The delegation visited various Palestinian popular institutions.

NICARAGUA: ISRAELI EMBASSY TO PLO

The Paris-based Lebanese magazine "Al Watan al-Arabi" reported on August 10 that the Israeli embassy in Managua will be handed over to the PLO. The magazine said a recent delegation from Nicaragua's new democratic government made this pledge to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat during a Beirut visit. While Israel had been a major arms supplier and supporter of former Nicaraguan dictator Somoza, the PLO has consistently supported the democratic and progressive forces in Nicaragua.

WEST GERMAN PARLIAMENTARIAN ON VISIT TO PLO: PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD NECESSARY

Juergen Moellemann, a Member of the West German Bundestag and Chairman of the Foreign and European Relations Committee of the Liberal Democratic Party, the minority partner in the Federal Republic of Germany's coalition government, arrived in Beirut on August 5 on a visit to the PLO and Lebanese and Syrian government officials. He visited institutions of the PLO, Samed factories and the Palestine Red Crescent Society. On August 6, he was received by Chairman Arafat for an "Iftar" meal (the supper during the month of Ramadan). After meeting the Head of the PLO's Political Department, Farouk Kaddoumi, and other PLO officials, Moellemann had further talks with Chairman Arafat on August 8. Both sides discussed the current situation in the Middle East and other international affairs.

After his talks, the West German parliamentarian who is also an aide to West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher declared at a press conference in Beirut that West Germany was in favor of amending United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 on Middle East peace if this "can lead to an acceptance of the resolution by the Palestine Liberation Organization". West Germany, he said, calls for the "recognition by all parties of the right of the Palestinians to self-determination and to a homeland within the framework of statehood... The realization of this must be made possible by all parties."

Earlier, the West German politician had also said that both the Palestinians and the Israelis should recognize each other's right to sta-

PALESTINE NOTES

tehood. "Israel's right to exist will have to be accepted, and the right of the Palestinians to live in a state of their own and determine their own destiny will also have to be recognized by all."

In late March 1979, following a visit to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, Moellemann declared that the interests of the FRG and of the European Community as a whole were with a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East and that such a settlement is impossible without including East Jerusalem into Arab administration and without a solution for the Palestinian problem. He affirmed that recognition of the PLO by the West and Israel is inevitable.

It is worth noting that the visit

Chairman Arafat meeting
West German M.P.
Juergen Moellemann



of the representative of the West German Liberal Party to the PLO comes in the wake of the recent Vienna meeting between Chairman Arafat, Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and Willy Brandt, Chairman of the West German Social Democrat Party and the Socialist

International. A leading politician of the West German Christian Democrat Party and Chairman of the Bundestag's Foreign Relations Committee, Gerhard Schroeder, has already met with Chairman Arafat in December 1974.

rights of the Palestinian people, including the right of self-determination and establishment of their independent state.

The meeting between Arafat and Ceausescu took place at the end of a five-day official visit the Romanian President paid to Syria where he held talks with Syrian President Hafez Assad. Ceausescu and Assad also visited Kuneitra, the Golan Heights city which was destroyed by the Israeli war criminals before their withdrawal from it after the 1973 war. At the end of the visit a joint statement was issued. It repeated that there could be no global solution to the Middle East crisis except on the basis of Israel's complete and immediate withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, recognition of the Palestinians' rights and establishment of their independent state on their territory. On his return home, the Romanian Head of State paid a short visit to Ankara where he met the Turkish Prime Minister, Bulent Ecevit.

ral Committee. The meeting dealt with the current situation in the Middle East, especially growing Israeli aggression against South Lebanon and Israeli repressive measures against Palestinians in the occupied territories. Bilateral relations were also discussed during the meeting, and the Romanian President confirmed his support for the inalienable

Chairman Arafat
conferring
with Romanian
President Ceausescu



CHAIRMAN ARAFAT MEETS PRESIDENT CEAEUSCU

Chairman Arafat met the Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu in Damascus on August 16. The meeting was attended by Khaled al-Fahoum, Head of the Palestinian National Congress, and Khaled al-Hassan, member of the Fateh Cent-

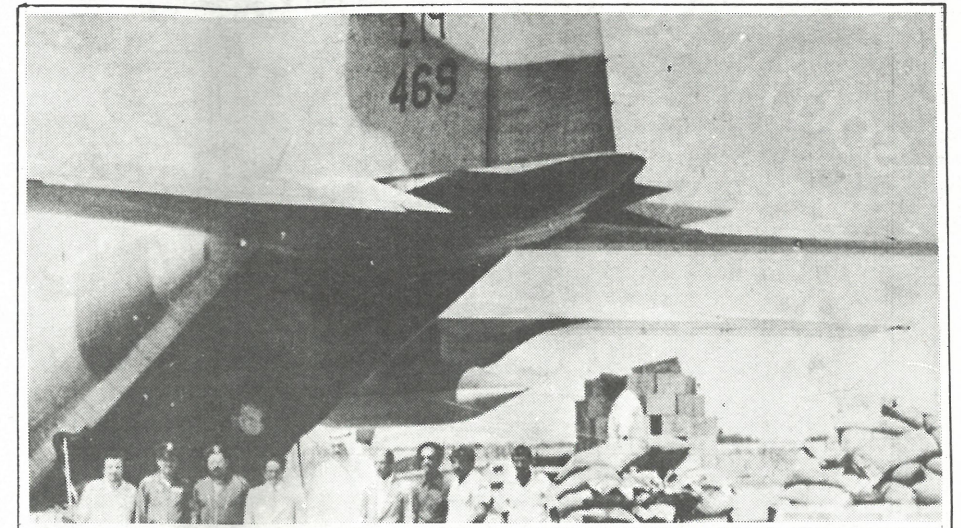
PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL ENDS ITS MEETING

The PLO Central Council, meeting in Damascus on August 11, ended its nine-hour session on August 12. The meeting was presided over by Khaled al-Fahoum, President of the Palestinian National Congress, and was attended by the PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasser Arafat and representatives of the various organisations of the Palestinian Revolution. The 55-man policy-making body discussed the latest developments affecting the Palestinian cause. This included Israel's relentless attacks against civilian targets in South Lebanon, as well as Chairman Arafat's recent talks in Vienna with Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and former German Chancellor Willy Brandt. The question of Palestinian national unity was also discussed.

The Central Council confirmed the necessity to unify the ranks of the various organizations of the Palestinian Revolution, including the participation of the Popular Struggle Front and the Palestine Liberation Front in the Central Council's activities. The Council also paid a high tribute to the activities and contacts of the PLO Executive Committee on the local, Arab and international levels.

It also adopted resolutions on furthering such activities, especially at the Summit of the Non-Aligned Countries to be held soon in Havana and the coming 34th session of the U.N. General Assembly, on the basis of the resolutions already taken by the Palestinian National Council. The Central Council stressed the necessity to abide by the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, as already specified by the PLO's political program, especially the right to return, the right of self-determination and the right of establishing an independent state. The Council will reject all resolutions not containing these points or attempting to tamper with them.

The Central Council warned against any U.S. attempt to liquidate Arab steadfastness and divert



Saudi medical and food supplies arriving at Beirut airport

Arab attention from the real danger of the Camp David accords, the autonomy plan and the attempts to liquidate the national rights of the Palestinian people.

In conclusion, the Central Council highly praised the heroic steadfastness of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples in the face of daily Israeli aggression. It also paid high tribute to the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories, their unanimous rejection and resistance to the "self-rule" plan, and the Israeli settlement policies as well as their rallying around their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

SAUDI MEDICAL AND FOOD SUPPLIES FOR PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE REFUGEES IN SOUTH LEBANON

A Saudi Arabian air force plane arrived at Beirut airport on August 7 carrying the eighth and last batch of medical and food supplies the Saudi Red Crescent Society is contributing to the Palestinian Red Crescent Society for distribution among Palestinian and Lebanese refugees in South Lebanon. In addition to medical supplies, the eighth batches of aid included 250 tons of rice, sugar, tea, milk, cooking oil and other food cans.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE BETWEEN PALESTINE AND BULGARIAN PEACE COMMITTEES

A joint communique was issued by the Palestinian and Bulgarian peace committees, following the visit recently to Bulgaria by Abdel-Muhsin Abu Maizar, member and official spokesman of the PLO Executive Committee and Chairman of the Palestinian Committee for Peace and Solidarity. Both sides discussed issues of mutual concern and the situation in the region in the aftermath of the Camp David accords and the separate Israeli-Egyptian 'peace' treaty. They agreed that these accords constitute a violation of UN resolutions regarding the Palestine cause and the national rights of the Palestinian

people as confirmed by UN General Assembly's resolutions, especially resolutions 3236 and 3237. The joint communique condemned Israel's malpractices with regard to Jerusalem and the establishment of new settlements in the occupied Arab territories, and its aggression against Palestinians and Lebanese in South Lebanon.

Abu Maizar explained the aims of Arafat's visit to Vienna and his meetings with Chancellors Kreisky and Brandt. Both sides expressed their belief that the visit constituted a positive contribution towards increasing the awareness of Western public opinion regarding the role of the PLO and the importance of achieving Palestinian national rights.

SOUTH LEBANON:



South Lebanese villagers searching the ruins of their house destroyed by Israeli air raid

WESTERN CONCERN NO BRAKE TO ISRAELI AGGRESSION

Israel's response to world outrage in the wake of the July 22 savage Israeli bombing raid on South Lebanon has been twofold. In public statements, Israeli official spokespersons have slightly modified their initial claim that the over twenty persons killed were "all terrorists," a position carried to a height of absurdity when an Israeli military spokesman affirmed on July 23 that the cars carrying Lebanese picnickers that were bombed by Israel were, in fact, "terrorist cars." In the August 9 meeting between President Carter and Israeli Ambassador Ephraim Evron, Evron reportedly responded to U.S. criticism by admitting that U.S.-supplied arms were being used against "civilian concentrations," but claimed that Palestinian guerillas were "using these villages as bases." Earlier this summer, in fact, the PLO and the Lebanese National Movement withdrew from all villages and towns in South Lebanon in order to give Israel no pretext for its aggression.

Militarily, the Israelis have combined continued indiscriminate shelling of civilian areas, both inside and outside the UNIFIL areas, with a showcase operation on August 2, where Israeli soldiers were flown by helicopter over the UNIFIL areas and struck near the village of Kawkaba, killing five members of the Lebanese National Movement after a fierce battle. The attack was preceded by Israeli shelling of a string of civilian villages in what was called by observers "the fiercest bombardment in three months," thus negating the Israeli assertion that this operation was more "selective" in its target.

U.S.-ISRAELI ARMS AGREEMENT

The August 2 raid generated a new round of American "regret" over the situation in South Lebanon, as the U.S. State Department urged "maximum restraint" by all those involved in the "cycle of violence." At the same time, a

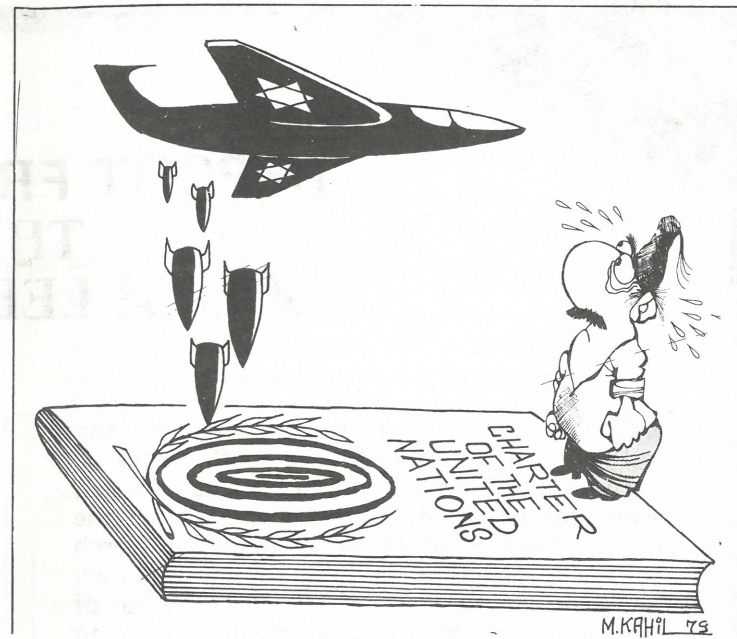
resolution introduced by Representative Paul Findley on the illegality of U.S. weapons being used by Israel for aggressive purposes, highlighted the fact that the U.S. was one of the parties so involved in the Lebanese crisis. Responding to the charge in a letter to Congress, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance admitted that "a violation of the 1952 agreement between Israel and the United States (which prohibits U.S.-supplied arms being used for "aggression") may have occurred by reason of such actions as Israel's July 22 air strikes and the deployment in Southern Lebanon of U.S.-supplied artillery."

This cautions U.S. admittance, which has as of yet no practical dimension, came amid growing Western concern over the explosive situation in South Lebanon, which saw 18 major Israeli air, land or sea strikes in July. In a letter to MP Peter Temple-Morris released in London on August 10, British Foreign Office Secretary Douglas Hurd wrote: "As for this latest major raid (on July 22), we received an eyewitness account from our ambassador in Beirut from which it is clear that the civilian Lebanese population was the principal victim of the air strikes. In the past we have repeatedly made known to the Israeli government our view that their policy in Lebanon is unacceptable, and we reiterated our concern on this occasion."

LEBANESE RESISTANCE GROWING

But Western "concern" and "regret" has seemingly little effect on Israeli policy, which continues to treat South Lebanon as a province of the Zionist state. On August 10, Israeli troops infiltrated nine miles into Lebanon and blew up the house of a Lebanese villager, about 50 meters from a Fijian United Nations position. The house, which was situated on the crossroads of the Izziyeh-Qleili villages, belonged to Mahmoud Abdulraddi, and was shared with three other families. The thirty-man Israeli unit also searched other houses and roughly questioned villagers about people who might be "linked" to the Palestinian movement.

In fact, such actions only strengthen the resolve of the Lebanese population in the South to oppose Israeli expansion, and affirm their solidarity with the Palestinians. In an interview with the Lebanese daily "Ike" on July 25, Lieutenant-Colonel Tom Quinlan of the Irish UNIFIL forces noted "Incidents like Majdel Silm (which the Israelis invaded in late July), the



blowing up of houses, the abduction and murder of civilians are affecting moderate opinion in this area." Another senior Irish officer put it more bluntly: "The actions of the Israelis and the rightists are the best possible advertisement for people in this area to join the Palestine Liberation Organization."

LEBANESE CIVILIANS AND SOLDIERS DEPORTED TO ISRAELI JAILS

Israeli troops have arrested dozens of Lebanese soldiers and civilians in the southern Lebanese border strip terrorized by the Israeli army and their puppet, the rightist Lebanese major Haddad. Reuter news agency quoted, on 7 August 1979, Lebanese Army sources saying that more than 20 soldiers and a greater number of civilians have been imprisoned in Israel in the past year for disputing Israeli occupation in the strategic belt of border territory. "Some of the prisoners are still in jail in Haifa and in the northern Israeli settlement of Metullah", the sources said. The soldiers detained belong to 500 - man strong unit of the Lebanese Army over which the rightist renegade Major Haddad seized control with the help of the Israelis. Several soldiers wanted to rejoin the regular Lebanese Army, since the Beirut Army Command has sent army unit to Kaukaba in August 1978, where it came under Israeli-rightist artillery bombardment. "Several of the soldiers of the Haddad-unit were detained by Israel after they contacted their former colleagues of the regular Lebanese Army in Kaukaba", the sources asserted.

REPORT FROM AIN AL-HILWEH: THE VOICE OF SOUTH LEBANON'S REFUGEES

For the past five months, the Tyre-Sidon road has been travelled by wave after wave of weary refugees fleeing from the besieged villages, towns and camps of South Lebanon. Since the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty on March 26, 1979, unleashed a new round of Israeli attacks on South Lebanon, the list of areas of the South more than 75% deserted continues to grow. Estimates of displaced persons have now reached a staggering 600,000. Yet these figures, let alone the story of human suffering behind the statistics, has been largely ignored by the international press. To date, international attention and aid has yet to respond to the growing tragedy of the population of South Lebanon.

In Ain al-Hilweh, a Palestinian camp on the edge of Sidon, the refugee "problem" is achingly real. Sidon, considered the first "safe" town on the road out of the South — until the Israelis bombed it, too, on August 24 — has seen hundreds of thousands of refugees. Tens of thousands have stayed in Ain al-Hilweh, and presently, at least 20,000 Palestinian and Lebanese refugees have swollen the camp's population to 70,000. Camp families have volunteered any extra space they have to house refugees, and the remaining families from the South have found shelter in schools, garages, empty shops, or whatever minimal shelter they can find.

VOICES OF THE REFUGEES

Entering one such shelter on August 23, an elementary school in the camp, the hallway swarms with women and children, crowded around a makeshift oven, where small loaves of flat bread are baking. One elderly woman sleeps on a thin blanket in the corner, unmoved by the surrounding commotion. Alia Baiwah, a woman of about forty with small tattoos etched on her cheeks and a baby nursing at her breast, describes her family's situation in an emphatic staccato. Her family of twelve children live in the Palestinian camp of Bourj Shemali, near Tyre. An Israeli attack in January 1979 destroyed her house, but her family returned to the camp and rebuilt their house. Two weeks ago, ten rockets



Refugee at Ain al-Hilweh camp

hit the new house and completely destroyed it, and the family fled to Ain al-Hilweh. Only the mercy of God, Alia said, saved her family. Alia showed the room where twelve persons now live, a bare classroom with bedding stacked in the corners. The only visible personal possessions are a small radio, a few clothes, and some pans. On the blackboard is an incomplete mathematics lesson, an ironic reminder that for Alia's children, school is now an almost unreachable goal. The school in Bourj Shemali has been closed since the winter, and the opening of this school year in September means only that the family must relocate once again. They do not know where they will go but Alia hopes it will be "calm" and they can return to the camp and build a third family residence. Despite her problems and suffering, Alia, a 1948 exile from the Safad

region of Palestine, is lively and humorous. Pointing to her children, she declares: "We are Palestinians! Long live Palestine!"

Hanna Taha, who has lived with her five children and husband in the Ain al-Hilweh school for six weeks, is another Bourj Shemali resident. Formerly, her family survived from her husband's work as an agricultural laborer on one of the large plantations outside Tyre. Now, he looks almost hopelessly for work, only finding an occasional job as a day laborer. Hanna lists her family's problems: lack of water, irregular electricity, very bad sanitation, illness among her children, her own sickness (she suffers from a respiratory infection), but the main problem is the future. "Where will we go?" she asks, throwing up her hands, "They say we must leave the school when classes begin."

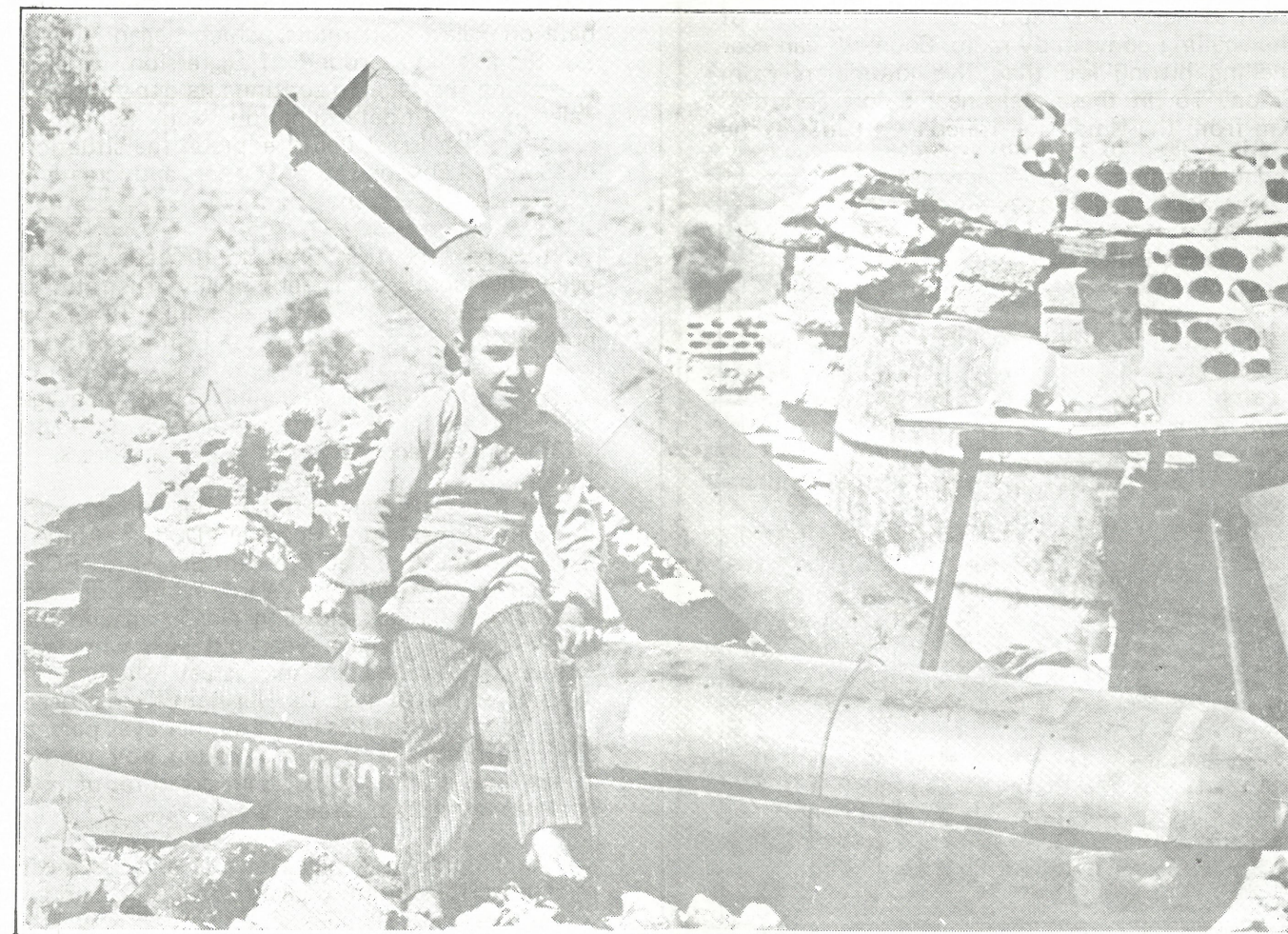
Her own children have been one year without schooling. When one remembers that, especially for Palestinian children, education is the only road out of the poverty of the camps and the hopelessness of unemployment, the scope of the

refugee problem receives another dimension; thousands of children are losing their right to a decent future.

Diby El Aineh, an older woman of perhaps fifty, fled Rashidiyeh camp, which has been almost continually shelled by the Israelis, four months ago and has been in the school for two months. Her husband sits listlessly on a stool and does not participate in the conversation. He has been ill for seven months and cannot work. Doctors have been unable to cure him: one wonders if his disease is due to the collapse of his hopes and his security for himself and his family.

In a complaint echoed by all the families, Diby noted that rations from UNRWA (United Nations Welfare and Relief Agency) had decreased. In the last three months, her family had received only five kilos of very bad flour. No other international aid has come to these refugees, except one recent shipment from Saudia Arabia.

Each family expressed a desire to return to



"We don't know....": U.S. anti-personnel bombs used against civilian population in South Lebanon



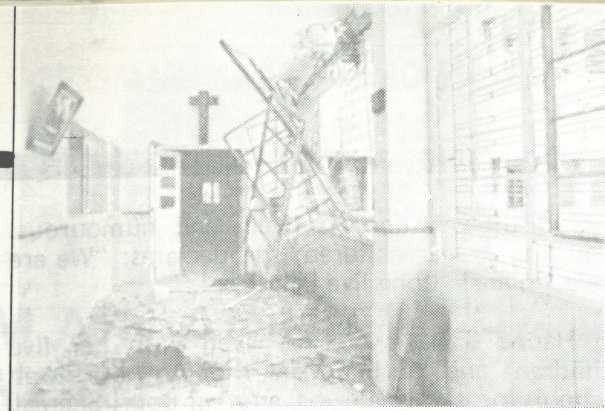
their homes in the South, their only economic and social base outside of Palestine. Yet Israeli strategy is precisely designed to prevent this return. The pattern to their homes in the South the Israelis escalate the bombing and shelling. The Israeli goal is simple and deadly: to depopulate the South, leaving the area open for extended Israeli-isolationist control.

ISRAELI STRATEGY: DEPOPULATE THE SOUTH

A camp leader at Ain al-Hilweh cites the current statistics: Tyre 80% deserted, Rashidiyeh 70% deserted, Bourj Shemali 90% deserted, Nabatiyeh 80% deserted. In the three days after he gave these figures, a vicious Israeli bombing raid on Tyre from August 24-27, has left the once bustling port city almost virtually deserted. Even as he speaks, reports of the beginning of the shelling come in by radio. Soon, we can hear shelling hitting less than five kilometers from Sidon. To hit these areas near Sidon, about 30 Km from the Israeli-controlled area, requires the



Many people killed and houses destroyed during Israeli artillery bombardment on Christian quarter of Tyre, on August 24, 1979



The Israeli 'protectors of Lebanese Christians':
Christian Maronite nun school bombed by
Israeli artillery killing 14 year old schoolboy.

use of U.S.- made long-range 175mm artillery. The use of this artillery has been confirmed in the attacks on Tyre and Sidon. On August 24, heavy shelling from these guns fell on the suburbs of Sidon, killing one girl in this traditional city of "refuge" from Israeli aggression in the South.

Once again, in this latest escalation of Israeli shelling, from August 20-27, which savagely hit the Christian quarter of Tyre, causing at least twenty civilian casualties, as well as demolishing a Maronite nun's school in Nabitiyeh, killing a 14 year old boy, the people of South Lebanon are "published" for Israel's international problems. Israeli shells and bombs express the Israeli "vote" on the UN Security Council debate on Palestinian rights, which began August 23. By this latest round of aggression, Israel is pressuring the U.S. to continue its opposition to Palestinian self-determination and issuing a warning that Israel could explode the situation in South Lebanon at any time and create a wider, possibly regional, conflict.

It is not the first time South Lebanon has been the victim of Israel's policy frustrations. On December 2, 1975, for example, Israel expressed its dissatisfaction at United Nations willingness to admit representatives of the PLO to debate the Middle East question by a savage bombing raid on the South that left 77 dead and 107 wounded, according to the Western press.

But if the strategy is old, the victims are not. In Sidon Emergency Hospital, Doctor Ahmed from the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) showed us the Childrens Ward. Women dressed in traditional black clothing cluster around the bed of a thin twelve year old girl, who was seriously wounded in the Israeli shelling of Rashidiyeh on August 18. Her right leg has been amputated and she lies very still, her eyes pained and confused. Nearby is a young boy whose spleen was ruptured by the pressure of the explosions of Israeli shells.

The Sidon Emergency Hospital receives most of the serious injuries from South Lebanon, sometimes up to sixty victims each day. Its

facilities and supplies are strained, yet a dedicated Red Crescent staff manages to provide free medical care for both emergencies and the numerous medical problems of the refugees. Doctor Ahmed notes the diseases common among the refugees: typhoid, scabies, malaria and anemia, all caused by housing in unhealthy environments, inadequate medical services and scarce or spoiled food supplies. Recently, the hospital has begun vaccination and preventive medicine campaigns in three areas where refugees congregate, and established two outpatient clinics.

Doctor Ahmed emphasized that the lack of international aid has made the hospital's work much more difficult, forcing them, for example, to charge for medicine. "After the Israeli invasion of March 1978," he said, "we received aid from many countries, but this time, there is almost nothing." The lack of international aid or support for the embattled people of South Lebanon is a pressing concern expressed by everyone concerned with the human tragedy of the South. An Ainal-Hilweh leader quoted an Arabic proverb: "If a man is killed in a forest, it is a crime that cannot be forgiven, but if a whole people is destroyed in the open, everyone looks the other way."

He expressed the hope that the poem would not come true, and that world public opinion,



Alia Baiwah and twelve children, driven from one camp to the other:
"We are Palestinians. Long live Palestine!"

and especially American opinion, since it is American sophisticated weapons that are maiming and injuring the population and driving them from their homes, would not "close its eyes to a people subjected to murder twenty-four hours a day." The cure for all the problems of the refugees — economics, social, medical-is the same, he remarked. It is the same cure that the Palestinians have sought for thirty-two years as they struggle in exile or under occupation — the right of self-determination, to return to their homes and to an independent state in Palestine.

LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER HOSS BLASTS THE U.S.

Lebanese Premier Selim Hoss launched a violent attack on the U.S. August 22, blaming it for Israel's continued attacks on Lebanon. The Prime minister was responding to a statement by State Department spokesman Tom Reston, who said Washington did not know if the planes used in the August 20 Israeli raid on the South were American and hoped that the attacks would not start an other "cycle of violence."

Hoss pointed out that the United States had pumped an average of two billion dollars into Israel annually since 1976 — in the form of economic and military aid. He said, "Does the American spokesman expect us to believe that the United States, which gives Israel so much, can do nothing but hope that the Israeli raids will not be the beginning of another cycle of violence... that it cannot stop Israel's barbaric aggression?"

He added: "Does the American spokesman expect to convince us that Israel's military capability, which being used to pound populated areas mercilessly and daily, is not provided by the United States, despite all the American economic and military aid Israel is receiving?"

Hoss rejected the "cycle of violence" reference, pointing out that Israel had publicly declared its determination to wage war against the Palestinians and had subsequently launched an endless series of attacks on Palestinian and Lebanese civilians alike, "without distinguishing between men and women, the aged and the young." The American spokesman should remember that Israel was using U.S. weapons to block the implementation of Security Council resolutions, Hoss said, "and any attempt to ignore this fact would be tantamount to placing the murderer and the victim on an equal footing."

THE 'FALSE' PEACE;

DEADLOCK IN CAMP DAVID 'PEACE'

The fifth round of "autonomy talks," held in Haifa from August 5-8, ended with a well-orchestrated display of Israeli fireworks, as Israel accused the United States of a "shift" in its total support for Israel. During the talks, Israel had firmly refused American-Egyptian proposals to include Arabs from East Jerusalem and from the diaspora in the "autonomy" elections. Israel was especially furious about talks of a "new version" of UN Resolution 242 that might include a clause recognizing "Palestinian rights." In calling

the present resolution the "framework" for Camp David, however, Israel stood on very shaky ground, as Israel itself rejects the basic tenet of 242 — Israeli withdrawal from 1967-occupied Arab land.

But to date, Israel has little to fear from the Carter Administration. The plan for a modified version of 242, which has been advocated by some Western European states, has already foundered on the rock of U.S. support for Zionism.



The reality of the Camp David 'peace': Israeli aggression escalating, daily raids on Lebanon, hundreds of thousands civilians made homeless.



On August 8, Senator Richard Stone, Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on the Middle East, reported that Secretary of State Vance had given him a firm pledge that the U.S. would veto the so-called "Kuwaiti resolution" to modify 242, which is expected to be presented at the UN Security Council discussions on Palestinian rights that begin on August 23. Western newspapers reported that the Begin government sent a letter to the Carter Administration reminding him of this promise in the wake of the Haifa talks.

THE U.S. DIPLOMATIC GAME

The rights of the Palestinian people, and their suffering, exile and occupation, remain a diplomatic game for the U.S., which dangles statements that augur change in the U.S. position in front of the Arab world, only to quickly retract them. So it was with the Soviet-American

Communique of 1977 and so it is today. After making an extremely vague comparison between the PLO and civil rights organizations in the United States, Carter then declared on August 12 that his Administration has never deviated from its policy towards the PLO and "we are not going to deviate from it." Carter also said he opposed the creation of a Palestinian state. He generously allowed the Palestinian people a "voice" in determining their own future, presumably through participating in the "self-rule" plan, thus cooperating in their occupation and their destruction as a people.

WEST BANK MAYOR: U.S. POLICY OF TENSION AND INSTABILITY

In an interview with the "Jordan Times" on August 7, the mayor of the Palestinian town of

KADDOUMI COMMENTS ON CARTER STATEMENT: NATIONAL RIGHTS ESSENTIAL FOR PALESTINIANS

Farouk Kaddoumi, Head of the PLO Political Department, commented on August 2 on Carter's interview with the "New York Times", in which the U.S. President made a comparison between the Palestinian cause and the struggle of the civil rights movement in the United States. Kaddoumi explained that the Palestinian cause was not merely a matter of civil rights. Essential for the Palestinian people is that they hold on to

their national rights which include the right of self-determination, return to their homeland, and the right of national independence and sovereignty. He confirmed that no Palestinian would give up these rights, especially the right to return to his homeland, which was usurped 30 years ago. These rights, Farouk Kaddoumi said, were approved by the United Nations in its resolution No. 3236. The "Committee of 24" also confirmed these rights in its report to the U.N. Security Council. The PLO, he said, rejects resolution No. 242 because it ignores the Palestinian rights and refers to the Palestinian cause as merely a problem of refugees.

Ramallah in the occupied West Bank, Karim Khalaf pointed out that the U.S. position on the Palestinian issue remains unchanged and that "ever since the emergence of the Palestinian cause, until the present moment, the U.S. has been biased against it and has worked continuously to stand against any decisions taken in favor of the Palestinians." Khalaf pointed out that a just resolution, U.N. 3236, already existed as a basis for a Middle East peace and said "Why did America refuse Resolution 3236 which the Palestine Liberation Organization accepted?" Khalaf accused the U.S. of adopting a policy of "tension and instability" in the area.

ARAB REJECTION OF U.S. INTERVENTIONS THREATS

Bahreini Premier Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman al-Khalifa has described as blackmail American threats to use military force to defend its Gulf oil interests, the daily "Akhbar al-Khaleej" reported on August 8, 1979.

It quoted him as saying: "Such threats, which they (the Americans) make every now and then, are mere blackmail. They also realize the futility of such threats even if they carried them out." Bahrain's premier added in an interview that invasion threats were rejected and belonged to the past. — Oil producers, he also said, had repeatedly declared they did not want to harm the world economy, the newspaper reported. On a comprehensive Middle East settlement, Sheikh Khalifa said stability in the region could not be achieved without granting the Palestinian people their right to a homeland.

U.S.S.R.: DANGER OF WORLD CONFLICT WESTERN EUROPE IS TARGET

In an article in the "Sovietskaya Rossia", on August 9, 1979, the organ of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee said danger of a "world conflict" arose from a new U.S. strategy viewing the Middle East "as a region where the United States would have the right to intervene with force at any time. One does not need much imagination to understand that Western Europe, bristling with rockets of all kinds and Cruise missiles, would play the role of a nuclear target in case of a global conflict provoked by the United States."

In case of a prolonged conflict between the United States and the Arab oil-producing countries, the newspaper added, American occupation of the oil fields would only be the start of a Vietnam-type conflict in which Western Europe would be expected to provide munitions and would be deprived of Arab petroleum on which it is completely dependent, unlike the United States.

"BYE, BYE, ANDREW YOUNG..."

U.S. NOT PREPARED FOR TRUE PEACE

Zionist blackmail has scored another miserable 'victory'. Andrew Young, the Ambassador to the U.N. of the United States, supposed to be one of the two major powers in the world, and the current Chairman of the United Nations' Security Council, dared to have informal talks with his colleague from the PLO, Zuhdi Tarazi, accredited at the United Nations as the internationally recognized representative of the 4 million Palestinian Arab people. The discussions with Tarazi, according to Young himself, took place in the interests of true peace in the Middle East and all the people living there and, last but not least, in the true interests of the people of the United States itself. But the Zionists, stunned by this 'incredible scandal', did not rest until Young was brought down. U.S. newspaper reports also suggest, that the U.S. Ambassador's meeting with Tarazi had been 'shadowed' and event bugged by Israeli secret agents.

With Andrew Young, the 'face' representing the U.S. Black community within the Carter Administration, as well as a somewhat more conciliatory and less brutal policy towards the people in Africa, Asia and Latin America, also departs from the government. Leaders of the U.S. Black constituency have already warned that this latest demonstration of Zionist arrogance may now well result in a deterioration of domestic relations, especially between the Black and the Jewish communities. Reverend Jesse Jackson, head of PUSH (People United to Save Humanity) and a key Black leader, declared on August 16, 1979: "This is the most tense moment in Black and Jewish relations in my memory."

The resignation by a high-ranking U.S. government official from his post, because of Zionist blackmail, will not harm the cause of the Palestinian people nor can it hinder international recognition of the justice of this cause, and of the PLO. Rather, this tragicomedy — it was reported that Presidential press secretary Jody Powell wept while announcing Young's resignation — further undercuts the international credibility of the U.S. Government and its already shaky Middle East policy. "It is really humiliating for such a power as the United States to fire its diplomats on the demand of another state", observed the Soviet news agency "Tass", on August 16, 1979, highlighting reactions all over the world, especially in Western Europe. The world rather pities the picture of the U.S. dog continuing to be wagged by its Zionist tail.

However, this farce also engenders dangerous consequences for peace in the Middle East and elsewhere. The U.S. obviously is unable to make up its mind to establish reasonable relations with the Palestinian people and the PLO, and to support a true peace in the Middle East. And while the world begins to strip off the chains of Zionist lies and blackmail, the U.S. Government blunders on the trip-wires which U.S. administrations, under Zionist pressure, have set for themselves: It is still stuck with its Camp David attempts to monopolize the Middle East politically, economically and militarily in a U.S.-Zionist-Sadat separatist alliance. Its decision-making is still crippled by dangerous "commitments" to the Zionist crusaders. It is still tied by its unrealistic pledge "not to talk" to the PLO unless the latter has yielded in advance to U.S.-Zionist conditions. Now, the ill-famed "Bye, bye PLO" has turned into a "Bye, bye Andrew Young", and into the abdication of any realistic and constructive U.S. Middle East policy.

As a result, U.S. Middle East policy, instead of heading towards peace, still continues its course of destabilization and destruction. Quite possibly, the phase of "dialogue with the PLO" will give way to another wave of U.S.-Israeli sponsored terror against the Palestinian people and its authentic leaders; to another bloody wave of Zionist aggression, oppression and frenzied expansionism; to another "Lebanon", to the destabilization of further Arab countries.

But this is only going to aggravate the crisis of U.S. policy in the Middle East. And it is bound to aggravate even more the Zionist crisis, too, which becomes more and more obvious in all economic, social, political and moral realms every day, and which cannot be forever covered by U.S. fighter aircraft and cluster bombs. After all, the Palestinian people and their resistance won't go away, not even at the price of more bloodbaths, nor will the PLO. Commenting on Andrew Young's resignation, a PLO spokesman declared: "The PLO is a fact and sooner or later the U.S. administration will have to send its highest officials to talk to the PLO leadership."



YOUNG: "IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF MY COUNTRY"

Commenting on his resignation at a press conference in Washington on August 15, 1979, U.S. ambassador to the U.N. Andrew Young declared: "I really don't feel a bit sorry for anything I've done. I acted as an intelligent ambassador dealing with a difficult situation, and I did what I thought was in the best interests of my country."

U.S. POLICY TOWARDS PALESTINE: DIALOGUE OR DECEIT?

by Our Diplomatic Correspondent

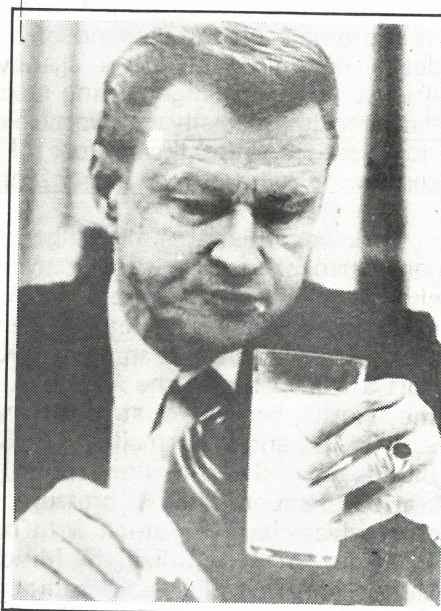
A liberation movement's diplomacy is an extension of its war of liberation, if one may be permitted to rephrase an oft-quoted maxim of Clausewitz.

This is a principle which the Palestine Liberation Organisation has applied in recent years with a skill that its friends and foes have acknowledged and with a success that is in many respects unique. The PLO is the first, and still the only, liberation movement to be granted full observer status in the United Nations and its subsidiary organisations, in addition to its membership in several regional and international bodies like the League of Arab States and the Islamic and Non-Aligned Conferences.

Before even following the examples of Algeria, the NLF in Vietnam and various European anti-Nazi resistance movements in proclaiming an exiled provisional government, the PLO has succeeded in obtaining recognition of its status as the Palestinian people's sole legal representative from the vast majority of the world's nations. A substantial majority of UN member states have endorsed the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination, independence and statehood as well as the PLO's condemnation of the racist character of Zionism. Another, more recent, PLO achievement was the official welcome given to its Executive Committee Chairman Yasser Arafat when he visited Vienna for talks with Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and Socialist International Chairman Willy Brandt, a former West German Chancellor.

BRZEZINSKI'S WORDS REFUTED

Only a few months after President Carter's National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski uttered his impetuous phrase "Bye-bye PLO", circumstances are compelling him to eat these



Brzezinski: will have to swallow his words

words. In short, the United States is talking, for the first time, about the possibility of a dialogue with the PLO.

A number of factors lie behind this. In addition to the diplomatic skill the PLO has demonstrated and its ability to survive a whole series of fierce attacks and attempts at liquidation, including the Israeli war of attrition against South Lebanon, there are also international factors, such as the oil crisis and a shift in the international power balance to the detriment of imperialism, which are forcing the United States' rulers at least to change their tactics. Of particular importance are the victories of the revolutionary movements of Iran and Nicaragua, which resulted in the overthrow of two tyrannies that were among Israel's closest allies. The PLO

enjoys close ties of solidarity with both these revolutions.

As a result, the PLO now faces the prospect of a dialogue with a government whose bitter hostility towards the Palestinian people is second only to that of Israel. The United States has not yet sent its regular forces to attack the Palestinians, but it has done everything short of that, supplying Israel with the most advanced aircraft, tanks, artillery, rocketry, electronic equipment and weapons of the most inhumane character, including napalm and fragmentation bombs, which violate the spirit, if not the letter, of international law. The U.S. government has also given the Israelis every encouragement, including diplomatic backing, economic aid and intelligence assistance, in their war of genocide against the Palestinian people.

CRITERIA FOR A DIALOGUE

In the conduct of a war of liberation or any other kind of hostilities, there is nothing inherently wrong in talking to one's enemies. The Vietnamese people, for instance, conducted long negotiations with the United States while their war of liberation was continuing. They sacrificed no principles by doing so, nor was their struggle adversely affected; on the contrary, through their skilled diplomacy in the conduct of the negotiations, they brought their victory nearer.

In the two recent examples of Iran and Nicaragua, the United States finally agreed to a dialogue with the revolutionary movements concerned when the latter were on the eve of victory, after a long period of refusing to talk to them. In both these cases, the opening of dialogue with the United States did not stop the U.S. from supporting and arming the national oppressors up to the last moment — nor did it stop the revolutionary movement from taking power.

It is possible that the United States government may have concluded, rightly or wrongly, that it was unable to affect the course of events in these three cases through dialogue because it left this until too late, until the revolutionary movements had built up a position of great strength from which to negotiate.

Two other instances of dialogue between liberation movements and the United States and other Western powers are those of Namibia and Zimbabwe. In both these cases, dialogue produced no benefits for the liberation movements concerned beyond a recognition that they are parties to a conflict. In practical terms, the dialogue brought no constructive steps, since both countries remain under racist settler occupation, albeit disguised now in quasi-democratic forms or with the help of local Quislings. On the

contrary, events indicate that the U.S. government and its allies used dialogue as a delaying tactic, gaining valuable time for the racists to implement their local equivalent of the "self-rule" plan that Messrs. Carter, Sadat and Begin are advocating for the West Bank and Gaza.

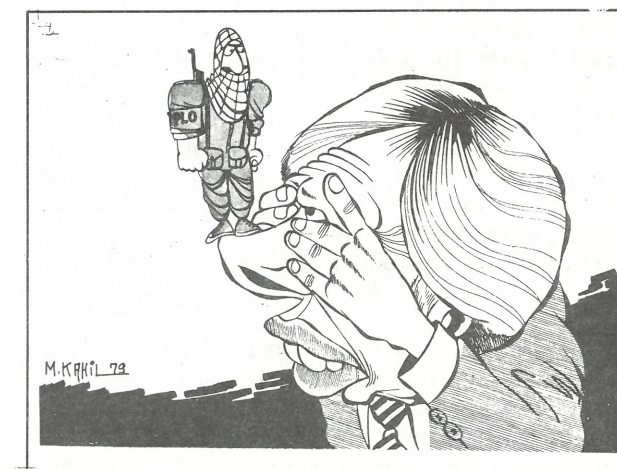
All the abovementioned examples suggest that the criteria for a dialogue with the United States need to be very carefully defined before the dialogue is opened. In particular, a liberation movement needs to ask itself: is our negotiating position sufficiently strong to prevent the other side from undermining our people's rights? Is the local and international balance of power in our favour? Are we aware of all the other side's aims in seeking this dialogue now, and can we be sure of counteracting those aims which are ulterior and dangerous? Can we be sure that this dialogue is a way to achieve a solution which ensures our people's rights in particular and which serves the cause of justice and peace in general and accords with the principles of international law?

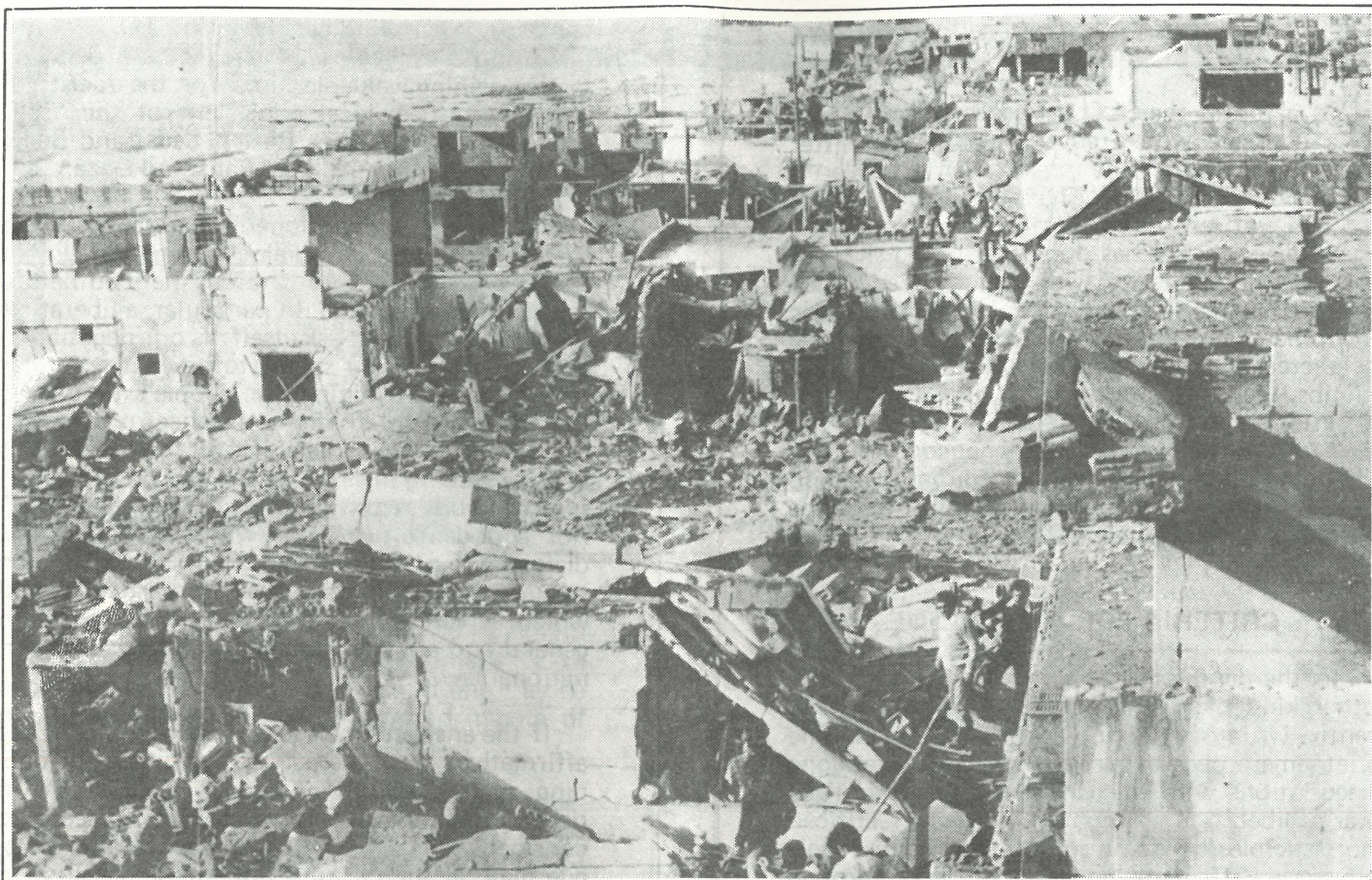
If the answers to all these questions are in the affirmative, then there is a strong case for opening such a dialogue. If any of them are in doubt, then the liberation movement needs to consider very carefully the danger that a dialogue may, at such a time, undermine its cause, in which case it may be advisable to postpone the issue until it has strengthened its negotiating position to prevent the enemy imposing his terms.

U.S. MOTIVATIONS FOR A DIALOGUE

It is important at this critical phase for world public opinion to be aware of the motivations that lie behind the U.S. government's sudden display of interest in a dialogue with the PLO, an apparent reversal of its previous attitude. Well-informed diplomatic circles have told our correspondent that these motivations include the following:

- 1) An endeavour to lure the PLO into recog-





U.S.-made Israeli planes carry death on camps in Lebanon (here Ouzai near Beirut) — U.S. "dialogue" with the Palestinian people?

nising the racist Israeli state's "right to exist". In this context, U.S. policy has not really shifted since Dr. Kissinger, then U.S. Secretary of State, gave the Israelis a pledge that Washington would not enter a dialogue with the PLO unless this precondition was met. Since then, President Carter has rephrased this by demanding that the PLO accept UN Security Council Resolution 242 (which implies recognition of Israel) before a dialogue is opened.

As PLO spokespersons have pointed out on many occasions, it is highly unreasonable for the PLO to be asked to recognise a racist state which refuses even to acknowledge the Palestinian people's existence as a people, let alone their rights to self-determination and independent statehood like any other people. And the PLO is being asked to bow to this demand unconditionally, without any guarantee that their rights will at last be restored even partially in return, and to put their trust in Washington's "good intentions" of which no evidence has yet been visible. This demand bears all the hallmarks of a confidence trick.

2) To draw the PLO into the "self-rule" talks which are an inseparable part of the Camp David deal and the appeasement treaty which Sadat signed with Israel in March this year. To achieve this, U.S. officials are trying to portray this as an

American concession, by maintaining that the United States would condescend to allow the PLO to join these talks in return for the latter's recognition of Israel. Western diplomats stress that Washington is not prepared to offer the PLO any other "concessions".

This is a totally dishonest argument. In the first place, no parties have any right to discuss issues affecting the Palestinian people's future without the participation of that people's sole legal representative, the PLO. Furthermore, the very subject of these talks, Israeli Premier Begin's "self-rule" project, is illegal since international law does not allow an occupying power to change the status of territories it occupies. The Begin "self-rule" plan is an ill-disguised attempt to bypass the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and prolong the occupation, just as Ian Smith's "internal settlement" is aimed at thwarting the Zimbabwean people's self-determination and preserve white supremacy behind the screen of black collaborators.

The PLO has denounced the "self-rule" plan. The talks being held on its implementation, and the Camp David agreement and Munich-style Sadat-Begin treaty which form the framework for these talks. The PLO has no desire to participate in this illegal process contradicting also all U.N. resolutions and is not impressed by U.S.

offers of "permission" to do so.

3) The U.S. government, in floating the dialogue idea, appears to be trying to gain time, to enable Begin to force through his "self-rule" plan against the wishes of the population of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as his racist Rhodesian and South African allies pushed their similar arrangements down the throats of the Africans. In short, Washington is hoping to play the same trick on the PLO as it tried to play on the liberation movements of Zimbabwe and Namibia.

4) The Carter administration also appears to be seeking to improve its relations with Saudi Arabia, which have been under some strain since the Sadat-Begin treaty. Saudi Arabia has long been pressing for a U.S.-PLO dialogue, and to this end, Crown Prince Fahd has advocated the "positive use of the oil weapon", as a "stick" rather than a "carrot" for the American donkey. This means the Saudis stand willing to increase oil production in order to ease the current shortage, in return for steps towards a solution of the Arab-Zionist conflict. In fact, Saudi Arabia is recently reported to have increased its production by some 1 million barrels per day for a 90-day trial period, as an incentive to President Carter to move towards dialogue with the PLO.

However, it is an open question whether Saudi Arabia will be satisfied with the U.S. response. The Kingdom has indicated that what it wants is a comprehensive settlement of the conflict in the Middle East, rather than a charade which solves nothing.

5) Closely related to this is President Carter's hope that he can use the idea of a dialogue with the PLO to enhance his electoral prospects. The key issue in the United States today, as far as ordinary American citizens are concerned, is the energy shortage and all the consequent sufferings it has inflicted on a people used to high levels of consumption. If Mr. Carter can relieve this shortage through a political manoeuvre, it will immensely increase his chances of re-election.

Furthermore, Mr. Carter is probably hoping that his moves on a dialogue may delay the next fullscale Middle East explosion — at least until after November 1980, the election date.

6) Finally, the US government is hoping to use this question to divide Palestinian and Arab ranks. By raising the possibility of a dialogue in this ambiguous manner, Washington planners hope to create a bitter controversy, and preferably even bloodshed, between those who advocate giving dialogue a try even on these dubious terms and those who consider that a trap is being set.

U.S. ADAMANT AGAINST PALESTINIAN STATE

The total insincerity of the U.S. approach to a dialogue is clear from the mass of evidence from diplomatic sources showing that the United States continues to maintain its intransigence on the central issue of the whole conflict, by insisting that the Palestinian people must be denied the rights of self-determination and independent statehood which the world accepts as the birthright of all peoples.

Thus, according to diplomats, Israeli Ambassador Ephraim Avron received a top-level assurance in late July that the U.S. government remained opposed to a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza. This general line was confirmed by US Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who revealed on 7 August that his government had pledged to veto any Security Council resolution acknowledging Palestinian rights to self-determination and independent statehood.

Earlier, there had been suggestions that a new Security Council resolution to this effect, correcting one of the deficiencies of resolution 242, could be a move to "bring the PLO into the negotiating process." It now seems clear that the purpose of the United States in encouraging this speculation was simply to try and extract PLO acceptance of resolution 242 (and hence implied recognition of Israel) without anything in return.

In an effort to end the ambiguities surrounding the question of a PLO-U.S. dialogue, PLO official Khalid Al Hassan declared on 7 August that there are three preconditions for such a dialogue. These are:

- 1) US recognition of the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legal representative;
- 2) US acknowledgement of the Palestinian people's right to independent statehood;
- 3) The conduct of the dialogue in an open manner.

These terms are logical, reasonable and fully in accordance with international law. They are meanwhile basically accepted by the entire world, with the exception of the US and Israel itself. As long as the United States refuses to meet them, it will continue to demonstrate that it is only interested in underhand deals and confidence tricks rather than a serious dialogue aimed at bringing peace and justice to this region, which has been denied these essential elements ever since the creation of the racist Israeli state.

OCCUPATION DIARY

"V" SIGN IN TEL AVIV COURT

The Israeli military court in Rehovot settlement near Tel Aviv on August 9 began the trial of the two Palestinian militants: Khaleu Hussein (18) and Hussein Fayad (19). The two militants are charged with thirteen crimes, primarily affiliation with Fateh and taking part in the "Dalal Moughrabi" operation which took place near Tel Aviv on March 11, 1978.

When Hussein and Fayad entered the courtroom under the glare of television camera lights, each held up two fingers in the "V for victory" sign. An Israeli then spit at Fayad who lunged at the Israeli, but was restrained by military police. Both young men had remained resolutely committed to the Palestinian cause, despite over a year of imprisonment and torture. Responding to the charges, Defense Attorney Leah Tsemel said the defendants "did not personally shoot anybody" in the daring raid that began when 11 Palestinian commandos landed in rubber dinghies on the Israeli coast and ended in a fiery battle with police and soldiers in Rehovot. Mrs. Tsemel revealed that the weapons of the two militants sunk on the way to shore and that many of the 34 deaths were caused by the "uncoordinated operation" of the Israeli troops and police trying to stop the bus the commandos had seized on its way to Tel Aviv.

She also said that the defendants were without counsel until two weeks before the trial when she took the case at the request of the International Red Cross and the government. "They have the right to defense", she said. The two militants could face the death penalty. Prime Minister Begin recently vowed that the government would instruct military prosecutors to seek the death sentence for such cases. The case resumes August 19 amid a glare of Israeli publicity, which reporters speculate, is designed to divert world attention in particular from



Hussein and Fayad in military court; In the face of the tormentors the sign for Palestinian victory

Israeli aggression and terror in South Lebanon.

MUNICIPAL COUNCILS: REJECTION OF 'SELF RULE', ATTACHMENT TO PLO

The Municipal Councils of al Bireh and Ramallah in early August issued a communique in which they emphasised that the Palestinian people are aware of the conspiracy planned against them and hold firmly to their legitimate rights, primarily the right of self-determination.

The two municipal councils confirmed the following points:

- Rejection of the self-rule plan and confirmation that the Camp David agreements are a conspiracy for the liquidation of the Palestinian people.

- Attachment to their rights of self-determination, independence and sovereignty on their homeland, and the right to establish a Palestinian state under PLO leadership.

- The Palestinian people's right to confront the occupation authorities' practices by all possible means.

- Confirmation that the Israeli charges against the Mayor of Ramallah, Karim Khalaf, and the Mayor of al-Bireh, Ibrahim Suleiman, are part of the conspiracy aimed at separating the national institutions from their national roles, as a step towards the implementation of the self-rule conspiracy and the appointment of Israeli agents to these posts.

ASSOCIATION OF SUPPORTERS OF PALESTINIAN DETAINEES FORMED IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

An Association of Supporters of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons that includes a number of progressive Jewish and nationalist Palestinian personalities was recently formed in Jerusalem. The lawyer Mohammed Mi'ari was elected President of the Association

and the lawyer Amnoun Zaghrouni, Vice President.

A legal committee was appointed to follow up the cases of Palestinian detainees. Besides, a medical committee was formed to supervise the detainees' medical care, since their situation is deteriorating daily as a result of maltreatment and torture. Finally, the association appointed a social committee to supply the needs of the detainees and members of their families. This Association was formed following the Israeli authorities' refusal to treat Palestinian detainees as prisoners of war, according to the Geneva Convention.

WEST BANK MAYORS REFUSE TO MEET EGYPTIAN DEFENCE MINISTER

The Israeli newspaper "Maariv", on July 31 reported that West Bank Mayors refused to meet the Egyptian Defence Minister Kamal Hassan Ali during his last visit to Israel. It added that these West Bank Mayors reaffirmed that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the only party authorized to take decisions regarding Palestinian destiny.

WEST BANK MAYORS CONDEMN U.S. POLICY, SUPPORT PLO

Ramallah Mayor, Karim Khalaf, recently said that the Palestinian people have the right to exercise self-determination on their own land, and that the international community supports these rights. He confirmed that the Palestinian people call for the application of U.N. resolution 3236, and added that the PLO will not accept resolution 242. Khalaf stressed that West Bank Mayors do not represent the Palestinian people politically and that their sole representative is the PLO. He denied Israeli rumors that he and the Mayor of Nablus, al-Shaka'a, will meet U.S. officials during their visit to Washington to attend a conference that will be held in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

In addition, Bassam al-Shaka'a declared that there will be no meetings with the U.S. Administration, because West Bank Mayors reject the anti-Palestinian policy of the United States. He also declared that no Mayor has the right of political representation, which belongs only to the PLO. Also Halhoul Mayor Muhammad Meinem condemned U.S. policy, saying that the Palestinian people reject the 'self-rule' project and any resolution that does not openly call for the establishment of a Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO.

BETUNIA MAYOR CALLS FOR RETURN OF CONFISCATED LAND

The Mayor of the village of Betunia near Ramallah, Ahmad Lutfi Othman, sent a letter to the Israeli Military Governor of the village in early August asking that all confiscated Arab land be returned to its rightful owners. In his letter, he said that the land belongs to the Palestinian people, and referred to the necessity of allowing all the Palestinians who have left to work or study in the Arab states to return to their homeland. He finally condemned the Israeli decision banning him from travelling abroad.

ANOTHER CONFRONTATION BETWEEN SETTLERS AND PALESTINIANS

Dozens of Palestinian citizens, on August 1, gathered around the Aqsa Mosque in order to confront the Zionist racist group which tried to desecrate the Mosque and pray in it. The Israeli Rabbi Goren asked for Israeli protection for the settlers during their prayers at the Mosque. The Israeli authorities are currently preparing a comprehensive plan for the Judaization and de-Arabization of East Jerusalem. A Zionist conference was inaugurated in Jerusalem, on August 1, to discuss the increase of settlements and other attempts to change the historical features of Jerusalem.

ISRAEL CONFISCATES WATER RESOURCES IN WEST BANK AND GAZA

The Israeli authorities are imposing restrictions on the consumption of water by Palestinian citizens in the West Bank. Around 200,000 Palestinian citizens in the Gaza Strip, alone are currently facing severe water shortages. The Israeli authorities are forbidding Palesti-

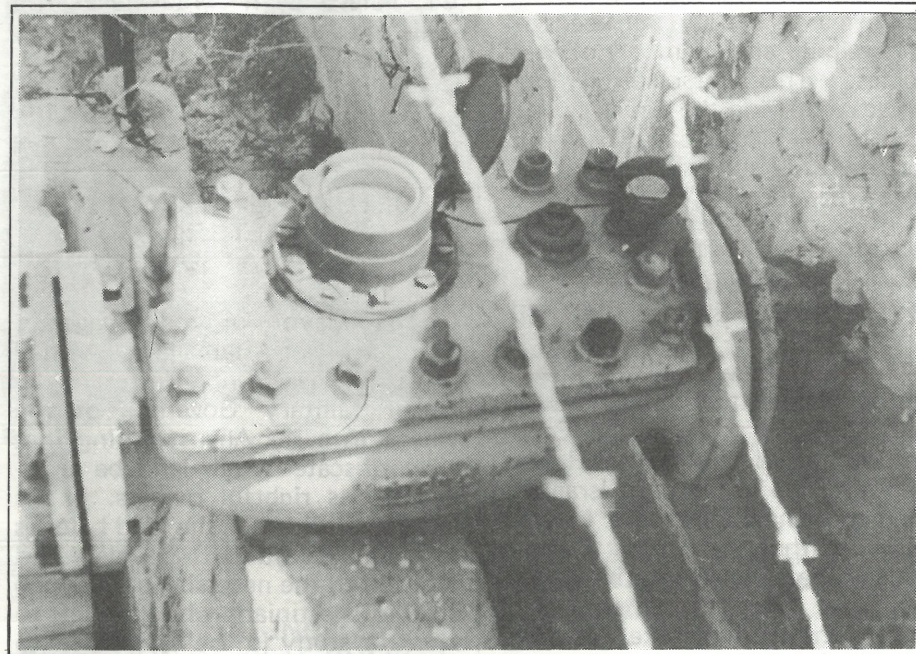


Committee for the defense of Palestinian political prisoners in the occupied territories

OCCUPATION DIARY

nians from searching for new water wells or enlarging the existing ones. The Israeli authorities have however dug twenty-four artesian wells in the West Bank over the past year for use by Zionist settlements. The region is thus being deprived of fifteen to eighteen million square meters of water annually, which amount is being diverted to Israeli settlements in the West Bank and for the irrigation of agricultural land inside Israel itself.

Each Zionist settlement has established a complete system of irrigation besides their big water reservoirs in the event of water shortages. The Israeli authorities have also prepared plans to divert the waters of the Jordan River towards the new Israeli settlements, and obliged certain Palestinian villages to provide water for these Israeli settlements from their own water reserves. The Israeli authorities have placed restrictions on the consumption of drinking water for Palestinian citizens, and these restrictions are being supervised daily with severe punishment imposed on all those who do not abide by the restrictions. Also, the Israeli authorities are also digging new wells for their settlements near Palestinian villages, which will eventually lead to the drying up of the existing wells in these Palestinian villages and to a decrease in the surface of cultivated land and in the amount of agricultural produce. This is meant to lead to the abandonment of these lands which would subsequently be seized by the Israeli authorities. The village of Beit Dibs in the West Bank is but one example: eighty percent of the cultivated land has become arid; while ninety percent of its two hundred inhabitants were dependent on agriculture for their livelihood.



Israeli-seized water source in Gaza



**the right
to education
is a basic human right
birzeit university should be reopened!**

MILITARY OPERATIONS

16 COMMANDO OPERATIONS DURING JULY

Palestinian commandos during July executed 16 operations in the occupied territories as compared to last month's 15 operations. Of these 16 operations the Israeli authorities admitted ten. Moreover, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan went as far as stating in the Netherlands on July 27, that Palestinian commando attacks inflicted an average of 20 casualties on the Israelis every two days including both killed and wounded, a figure even higher than that claimed in Palestinian military communiqués.

Seven of this month's operations were executed in Jerusalem, followed by five in Tel Aviv and the rest in other parts of occupied Palestine, namely in Nablus, Natanya, Kfar Saba and in Qiryat Arba' on July 26. Simultaneous operations were executed on several occasions last July, namely on July 1, with one in Jerusalem and the second in Tel Aviv; on July 6, with both in Jerusalem; on July 15, with one in Jerusalem and the other in Nablus; and on July 23, with one in Tel Aviv and the other in Kfar Saba. Of the sixteen operations, nine inflicted casualties on the enemy.

EXPLOSIVES IN GUSH EMUNIM OFFICE IN JERUSALEM

No. 120/79:

A militant from special commando unit "B" operating inside the occupied territories, planted a timed explosive charge on August 3 in front of an office of the Gush Emunim gang in Bab al-Asbat quarter of occupied Jerusalem. The charges exploded at 10:30 the same night, killing or injuring several members of the Gush Emunim group, destroying the furniture on the first floor and shattering the windows of the whole building. The blast was said to have been heard in various parts of the City. Israeli forces, following the explosion, set up check-points and intensified security measures around all public services in Jerusalem.

EXPLOSIVES IN TEL AVIV AREA

No. 123/79:

Palestinian commandos of special unit "G" operating inside the occupied territories, placed on August 7 a timed explosive charge inside a building belonging to the Israeli Military Institute located on the main road of Kfar Yuna settlement, north-east of Tel Aviv.

The charge was discovered at 8:15 am the same day and Israeli Security forces immediately evacuated the main road in the settlement and banned all traffic. The explosives expert failed to defuse the charge and set it off near the settlement. Israeli forces, following the discovery of the charge, set up check-points inside the settlement and blocked all roads leading to Tel Aviv. As usual they also arrested a number of Palestinian citizens for their alleged involvement in the operation.

EXPLOSIVES AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE OFFICE OF SECURITY FORCES IN TEL AVIV

No. 124/79:

Palestinian commandos of special unit "G" on August 7, only one hour after the execution of their first operation in Tel Aviv, managed to reach their second target in the same region, and placed timed highly explosive charges at the entrance of the main office of the Israeli security forces parallel to one of the area's vital utilities on Yousef Tal Street inside Natanya settlement, north of Tel Aviv.

The charges exploded at 9:30 the same day, killing or injuring no less than six Israelis and heavily damaging a number of buildings and vehicles on the street, which was cordoned off for several hours. Later Israeli forces arrested a large number of Palestinian citizens. Radio Israel, in its Hebrew bulletin the same day, admitted the operation, and said that the office was damaged and all those inside it were injured. The commando unit returned safely to base.

EXPLOSIVE CHARGES IN TEL AVIV

No. 125/79:

Palestinian commandos from special unit "B" operating inside the occupied territories, placed a timed highly explosive charge in front of the Zionist security office in the Tel Aviv suburbs on August 8. The charge exploded at 8:30 pm the same day, killing or wounding an unknown number of Israeli citizens, two of whom were guarding the office, damaging parts of the building, and setting all its contents on fire.

Immediately following the explosion, Israeli security forces closed off the street, and Israeli explosives experts combed the area for other charges. Later, Radio Israel, in its Hebrew-language bulletin admitted the operation. The unit returned safely to base.

LAND CONFISCATION: PALESTINIAN BEDOUINS DEFEND THEIR LAND

The tragedy began in 1948, when the Zionists occupied the Negev region: there were 65,000 Bedouins of seven different tribes: al-Tarabeen, al-Tayyaha, al-Azazima, al-Khanajira, al-Jabbarat, as-Sa'diyyene and al-Hayawat. According to maps of Palestine issued in 1946, each tribe had its own land that was defined on the maps, and each Bedouin had about 40 dunums to farm as his own. The Zionist "Kern Kimit" Movement tried to put its hands on large tracts of lands in Negev during the British Mandate, but the Mandate authorities failed to find lands not already owned by Arab Bedouins.

But 1948 carried disaster to the Bedouin tribesmen: after the Zionists occupied the region, many Arabs were evicted from their homes and lands. Many took refuge in Jordan, the Dead Sea region, Gaza or Sinai. They number now only about 32,000. Those who did not leave their villages, were forced by the Zionist authorities to stay in a defined isolated area to the east and north-east of Bethlehem. It was considered a closed military area, not for security reasons as the Zionists claimed, but for other more important reasons:

- To prevent Bedouins who had left their lands from returning, thus making the confiscation of these lands easier. In 1951, three settlements were built on Tarabeen tribe's land: Hallousa, Reviveem and Urim-Tselilim. In 1966, the Bedouins discovered that the Israeli authorities had registered Bedouin lands as owned by the Development Department which is responsible for the confiscation of vast amounts of Arab land under different pretexts.

- To halt the flow of cheap Arab manual labor from the Arab villages into the cities and settlements where it would compete with the



"Take your hands off our land"

Jewish manual labor. This was done in harmony with the Zionist-racist concept of "Jewish-only" Labor.

- To prevent any further contact between Arabs and Jews, and to widen, instead, the rift between them so as to justify the racist policy adopted by Zionism.

The Bedouins appealed for "justice", but the Israelis procrastinated the matter, putting every possible pressure on the Bedouins to make them give up their lands. A Committee for settling the issue of Negev Arabs lands was established, but only to put forth on January 21 of 1975 proposals that would give legality to the confiscation of Negev lands.

TERRORIST CAMPAIGN

On the other hand, the "Department of Israeli Lands" started a terrorist campaign against the Bedouins. Ariel Sharon, the Agriculture Minister, has created the so-called "Green Patrols", under the leadership of Aloney Galilee, to "solve the problem of Negev Arabs by transferring them to other areas because of the need to build military installations in the area", especially after Camp David.

The "Green Patrols" were given police authority. To date, they have demolished 200 houses in the area because they were built "illegally". They forbid Negev Arabs to use water pipes in middle Negev, thus depriving them of one of their main resources, and have even confiscated cattle. (See "Palestine", Vol. 5 No. 12. P.27)

KNESSET DISCUSSES CONFISCATION

During the last week of July, the Israeli Cabinet proposed a harsh plan that would empower the government to seize 37,500 acres of Bedouin lands. A state of anger prevailed throughout the Palestinians communities. On 24 July, hundreds of Palestinians from the Negev demonstrated in front of the Knesset expressing their condemnation of this proposal, shouting slogans against the racist settlement policy of Israel, and stressing their will to defend their land by all means.

Yet, Zionist Agricultural Minister Sharon announced the intention of his government to establish a settlement belt between the Negev and Hebron to "reduce contacts" between the Palestinian citizens of the two areas. Also, the Israeli provincial governor of the South revealed that the Ministry of Interior will soon complete the collective settlement project in the Negev. 100,000 Israeli settlers are to be moved to the area. He added that two nuclear power plants

will be established there in the coming two years.

PALESTINIANS UNITE TO CONFRONT ZIONISM

The Mayors, head of chambers of commerce, social and national institutions and labor unions in the occupied territories declared their solidarity with Negev Arabs in their struggle to defend their land. It was decided to stage a huge demonstration on July 30. In addition, the Regional Committee of Arab Mayors and the Committee for the Defence of the Land, called for a demonstration before the Israeli Knesset on the same date to protest Israeli measures against the village of Ma'aliya in Galilee and the Israeli army's harassment of its inhabitants. Twenty-eight Palestinian citizens from Ma'aliya were still in Israeli jails.

"RISE, PALESTINE, RISE"

The two demonstrations met on July 30 in front of the Knesset. Thousands of Palestinians and progressive Jews participated in the two rallies. Delegations composed of the Heads of local Councils and members of the Municipality Councils, delegations representing the Land Defence Committee, Jewish democratic organizations, student organizations, hundreds of Negev Bedouins and hundreds of Ma'aliya citizens participated. The Knesset was endorsing the Cabinet's proposal that empower the government to seize all Bedouin lands to establish an airfield, with limited compensation (\$83 an acre only) but without the right of judicial appeal. Thousands were shouting:

"My homeland, my homeland, my love and my heart, we will defend you with our spirits and our blood" and "Take your hands off our land".

Among the other slogans raised were "No to Judaization," "No to expulsion" and "We will not surrender our land".

A number of Palestinian youths who have been on hunger strike since July 29 in rejection of the Israeli land confiscation policy joined the demonstration. Printed statements issued by the Committee for the Defence of Arab Land, the Committee of Arab Mayors in the territories occupied since 1948, the Druze Initiative Committee, the Committee for the rights of Negev Arabs and the Work Committee for the Negev Arabs were distributed during the demonstration.

ZIONIST CONFISCATION: PALESTINIAN BEDOUINS FIGHT FOR THEIR LAND



Thousands
demonstrate against
Zionist land theft

"TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF OUR LAND"

Speeches were also delivered by representatives of Arab institutions participating in the demonstration. While our people were chanting "Rise, Palestine, Rise", Rev. Shehadeh, President of the Regional Committee for the Defence of the Land spoke to them and said: "We shall not give up our land. We are demanding the Zionist settlers to take their hands off our land." Among the speakers also were Salibe Khamis, member of the Israeli Communist Party, Deputy Tawfiq al-Toubi, who spoke in the name of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, Jamal Tarabay who spoke in the name of the Regional Committee of Arab Mayors and Shaykh Farhoud Farhoud of the Druze Initiative Committee. Among Progressive Jewish speakers were Moshe Ammar and Meir Zau'oyyen. The speakers stressed that the Israeli policy of land seizure only further confirms the fascist laws adopted against the Palestinian people. They warned against the continuation of this policy which could lead to dangerous repercussions, not only for the Arabs, but for the democratic Jewish forces as well. They also confirmed that the Palestinian people are capable of confronting all Zionist plans.

CLASHES WITH ZIONIST GANG

The Israeli authorities tried to undermine the demonstration, by pushing Zionists from the "Alil" gang into the scene to clash with the Arab and progressive Jews demonstrators so that the police might break up the demonstration under the pretext of keeping order. "Alil", which is a Hebrew acronym for "Arabs for Arab states

and Jews for Israel," is a Zionist movement which was established on February 20, 1979. Its leader is Meir Kahane, the founder of the Jewish Defence League. The Israeli authorities use such gangs as their shock troops when they don't want to show up directly on the scene as oppressors of the Palestinian citizens. But the demonstrators confronted the Zionist provocators. The Israeli troops interfered "to keep order", arresting Kahane and one of his gang (only to be released in a short time) and a number of Palestinians who are still in detention.

The Municipalities and nationalist social institutions in the occupied territories sent a series of cables expressing their solidarity with the Negev Arabs. Popular delegations from different areas arrived in the Negev to express their solidarity.

KNESSET AND GOVERNMENT TRY TO CIRCUMVENT MOUNTING RESISTANCE

Concerned about the volume of the mounting resistance, the Israeli Cabinet tried to circumvent the case when it announced that certain (unidentified) amendments will be made in the resolution. The Knesset, in its turn, endorsed the resolution on August 1, by a small majority. There may yet be some formal amendments submitted to absorb the fury of the Negev Arabs.

Meanwhile, the Negev Arabs who began a hunger strike on July 29 are still on strike. Everywhere in Palestine, our Palestinian people are on alert. United as they had never been united before, they are confronting the Zionist-racist policy of settlement chanting: "Palestine, my homeland forever."

ZIONISM IN PRACTICE

"TRIBUNE JUIVE": ISRAEL SHOULD GIVE UP THE POLICY OF REFUSAL

The "Tribune Juive", a weekly french newspaper with a large Jewish readership, in its issue of Saturday 4 August 1979, warned against continuation of the Israeli "system of refusal" towards the PLO. In its editorial, the paper observed:

"Israel has allowed itself to become enclosed within a system of refusal in the face of the PLO which, day after day, is seeing its international position being strengthened.

"Israel is stuck in a policy of refusal, while at the same time recognising that the PLO is a powerful movement and that Israel itself has no other solution but to bomb South Lebanon, even to kill civilians. Now Israel cannot simply allow itself to bombard Lebanon indefinitely," the weekly continued.

"One must not underestimate the danger posed for Israel and the Jewish people, in moral terms, for the moral health of the Jewish people, by the prolongation of the present struggle if it is not vitally indispensable," the editorialist went on. He concluded: "Morality also requires consideration for the possibilities of the future rather than the crimes of the past, which end up in any case being effaced, generation after generation, with the death of the guilty."

ISRAEL'S GALLOPING INFLATION

On August 11, the Israeli government announced cuts in subsidies that will increase basic food prices by between 45 and 50 percent. Amiram Sivan, director General of

the Ministry of Finance, said public transport fares would also rise by 25 percent, but the cuts would save the government 153 million dollars a year.

He said that by August 19 the price of bread, frozen chickens, cooking oil, milk and dairy products would rise by 45 to 50 percent. Government spokesmen said the cuts, adopted by a special ministerial committee on August 10, were part of an effort to curb inflation which is running at 100 percent a year.

The Israeli trade union federation, the Histadrut, said it would take measures to fight the price increases. The Histadrut also said it was calling a national strike in protest against the new price increases.

RABBI INDICTED FOR MURDER OF PALESTINIAN GIRL

The Israeli Central Court in Jerusalem on August 2 stated that the Palestinian student Rabi'a al-Shalalidi was killed by a Zionist settler, Rabbi Ilian Sour from the Qiryat Arba' settlement, while Israeli forces were attempting to disperse the demonstration which took place in the West Bank town of Halhoul in protest against Carter's visit to the area in March of this year. It also said that the defendant had been on his way by car from Qiryat Arba' to Jerusalem at the time of the demonstration,

JULY 1979: 5,989 DUNUMS SEIZED, 38 SETTLEMENTS TO BE ESTABLISHED

During the month of July 1979, the Israeli authorities confiscated 5,989 dunums of Palestinian land for the establishment of new Israeli settlements. Ten settlements will be established around Nablus to support the Alon Moreh settlement. The Israeli Knesset, approved the establishment of thirteen new settlements in the occupied territories, and allocated IL. 500 million

and that he had shot at the demonstrators.

DOCTOR PREVENTED FROM SEEING DYING MOTHER

Israeli occupation authorities have been accused of deriving sadistic pleasure from barring a Palestinian doctor from visiting his dying, 80-year-old mother. In a letter sent to Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim, in August 1979, Jordanian Ambassador Hazem Nuseibeh called the case of Dr. Yassir Amer "a violation of basic human rights... a flagrant violation of the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention... and commonly accepted human behavior."

He said the widely respected doctor, now living in Amman but a native of Hebron in the occupied West Bank, was prevented from visiting his mother in Hebron some two months ago to satisfy her wish to see her son once more before she died.

"Dr. Amer's mother died a few weeks later, a broken-hearted mother, which one cannot but assume must have given the sadistic military governor and his equally sadistic superiors the pleasure which derives from degraded and dehumanized characters," Nuseibeh wrote. He added that after the woman's death, Amer received permission to attend her funeral but declined to accept that.

to support this new settlement plan. Furthermore, Begin on July 10 ordered the establishment of ten new settlements. Meanwhile, the Israeli Minister of Agriculture Ariel Sharon this month announced the intention of his government to establish a settlement belt between Negev and the city of Hebron to reduce contacts between the Palestinian inhabitants of the two areas.

TREES CUT DOWN

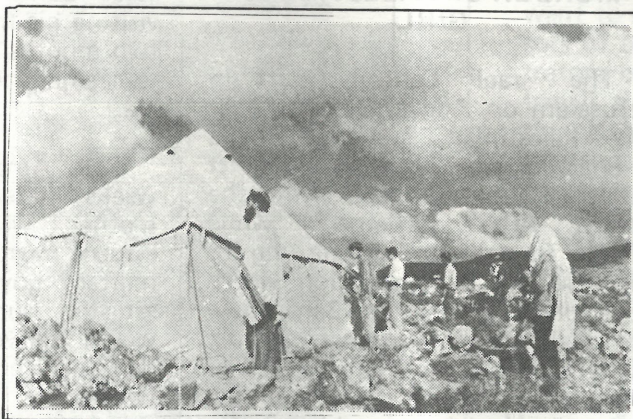
Zionist settlers of the Mefdal

Settlement in the Etzion area themselves cut down the trees on recently-confiscated land near Beit 'Omer. Some Palestinian citizens were consequently arrested at Beit 'Omer to prevent them from complaining about the confiscation of their own land. It is worth mentioning in this context, that last April Zionist settlers at Qiryat 'Arba cut down more than five hundred grape vines in the Hebron area.

In related news, the so-called National Workers Zionist Youth Movement has begun construction of a new settlement in Kfar Etzion in the West Bank which is meant to be a training and entertainment centre for Zionist youth. The Knesset has already approved the establishment of this settlement and provided the movement with the necessary funds.



Palestinian Arab schoolchildren in Nazareth — a 'cancer' for the Zionist state



Zionist fanatics near Alon Moreh settlement

ISRAELI GENERAL: THE PALESTINIANS ARE A CANCER IN THE BODY OF ISRAEL

"The Palestinians of Galilee are a cancer in the body of the (Israeli) nation," said General Avigdor Ben-Gal to a group of 36 members of the Knesset who were on a visit to Israeli settlers in the Golan Heights. He added: "They're just waiting for the moment, when they can knock us. It is for this reason that we must give preference to settlements in Galilee over settlements in the Golan Heights."

The statement provoked a storm of anger in Arab circles and among

the Jewish democratic and progressive forces in occupied Palestine. Knesset member Tewfiq Toubi cabled the Israeli Premier and the Israeli Minister of War, denouncing the statement, which he described as an invitation to the massacre of the Arabs and called for the resignation of the Israeli General.

He also confirmed in a statement issued to the daily "al-Ittihad" that the Israeli General's statement is based on the policy of the Likud coalition government towards the Arab population. He said that the government used the "Koenig Report" as a programme for its dealings with the Arabs, and added

that such statements only reflect the dangerous developments in the Israeli Military Command. The "Koenig Report" was issued secretly in 1976 by the Israeli governor for the Galilee. When it was leaked to the public, it caused international outrage because of its extremely racist proposals on how the Zionist government could decimate the Palestinian Arab population or force them to emigrate by reducing social care for their children and further cutting down higher education and vocational facilities.

The political department of the Sheli Bloc in the Knesset sent a cable to the Israeli War Ministry calling for the resignation of General Ben-Gal and calling on the Army Command to refrain from issuing such statements. Sheli Deputy, Uri Avneri, wondered how the Jews would react if an American General said they were a cancer in the body of the U.S. state. In an attempt to prevent national and international repercussions caused by the leaking of the racist invectives of a high-ranking Israeli general, Israeli Defense Minister Weizman meanwhile has mildly rebuked the general's remarks.

ISRAELI-WEST GERMAN PRISONERS SCANDAL:

BRIGITTE SCHULZ AND THOMAS REUTER — STILL HELD HOSTAGE IN ISRAELI JAILS

Thousands of political prisoners, both of Palestinian and foreign nationalities, are held in the Zionist jails and torture centers. But rarely does the entire scope of Israeli state-sanctioned terrorism, blackmail and total contempt of anything called human rights and international law so clearly spring to the eye as in the case of two West German youths, Brigitte Schulz, now 25, and Thomas Reuter, now 26. Their ordeal was recently brought to public attention by Terre Fleener, the U.S. citizen just released from an Israeli jail.

Brigitte Schulz and Thomas Reuter, following their mysterious abduction from Kenya to Israel in early 1976, have been subjected ever since to imprisonment without conviction, torture and blackmail. Silent accomplices in the scandal going on for over three and a half years are the West German authorities which apart from a "firm protest" brought to the Israeli government in early 1977, have so far proved impotent in securing the minimal rights of two of their citizens from the Israeli state gangsters.

"A CLEAR VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW"

The Israeli government itself no longer contests the fact that Schulz and Reuter, apparently together with several Palestinians, have been kidnapped and abducted "without any legal basis" (West German "Sueddeutsche Zeitung", June 15, 1977) to Israel from Kenya, where they disappeared in January 1976. The Kenyan authorities themselves officially have denied any involvement in the affair.

When the parents of the disappeared West Germans, tipped off about the whereabouts and sufferings of their children, intervened with the West German and Israeli governments, both governments initially denied any knowledge about the matter. The Zionist state continued its shameless lies (in "a clear violation of international law" — West German magazine "Der Spiegel", June 28, 1979) until early 1977, when an Israeli diplomat unofficially approached the parents and informed them that their children were held at a secret place under Israeli administrative detention, a rule allowing for imprison-



Thomas Reuter, Brigitte Schulz — kidnapped and held hostage since over 3 1/2 years by Zionist state gangsters

ment without any formal charges or time limits. The Israeli diplomat, at the same time, tried to blackmail the parents to keep the affair secret.

WEST GERMAN CONNIVANCE

When the desperate but undeterred parents made it clear that they were going to hold an international press conference, the Israeli authorities, on the eve of the West German Foreign Minister Genscher's visit to Israel at the end of March 1977, for the first time admitted in public that they held the West German youths "in connection" with an alleged plan — never to be carried out — for an attack on an Israeli plane in Nairobi in January 1976. Until the present day, even the Israelis themselves never have claimed that the two West Germans had been involved in any actual attempt to carry out an attack. According to press reports, the Israelis allege that they had been sent by the Popular Front For the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) to Nairobi to investigate what had happened to three previously detained Arab Palestinians. No explanation whatsoever was provided by Israeli officials, as to why and how the detainees had been kidnapped to Israel, and how the Zionist state could have lied about the matter to the West German authorities for over a year.

As a matter of fact, the mother of Brigitte Schulz, at a press conference in March 1977, indirectly accused the West German authorities themselves of collaboration and complicity with the Zionist state gangsterism; and the magazine

BRIGITTE SCHULZ AND
THOMAS REUTER —
STILL HELD
HOSTAGES IN ISRAELI JAILS



"Der Spiegel", in a report of April 11, 1977, disclosed that the West German secret services BND and Verfassungsschutz had known of the kidnapping and deportation from the very beginning and cooperated in related activities of Israel agents in West Germany.

SECRET "TRIAL"; TORTURE ON END

When Brigitte Schulz' parents finally succeeded in visiting their incarcerated daughter under the supervision of the Israeli intelligence service she was not allowed to speak about her case. She could only mention that her tormentors had threatened her with a lifetime in jail unless she would "confess". It also became known that the detainees had been kept completely isolated all the time and even been denied newspapers. Also, the lawyers chosen by the prisoners for their defense, Felicia Langer and Leah Tsemel, had been refused any contact with their clients. The detainees had been offered only a list of special advocates cleared by a military "security" commission.

International attention and indignation forced the Israeli state gangsters to announce in spring 1977 that the imprisoned two West Germans and their Palestinian fellow sufferers were to be brought "on trial". This "trial", however, turned out to be a cynical farce worthy of the worst procedures of Nazi "justice". The defendants were denied a regular court. Instead, the sessions were taken to a secret military tribunal, convening at an "undisclosed military base" (The British "Times", June 16,

1977), under total exclusion of the public. Even the charges were not made public. The defendants continued to be deprived of any lawyer of their own choice.

In an obvious reaction to international attention for the "trial", an Israeli military spokesman announced on June 15, 1977, an indefinite postponement without any reason. A new "interruption", also without any reason, was declared on July 7, 1977.

It has meanwhile leaked to the public that the two West Germans continue to be subjected to torture, beatings and blackmail. In one of the very rare reports in the West German press on the incredible scandal, the "Sueddeutsche Zeitung" on January 28, 1978, mentioned that an Israeli lawyer of Brigitte Schulz had filed an appeal to the highest Israeli court to issue a provisional ruling "against Prime Minister Begin and Minister of the Interior Burg as those responsible for the Israeli secret services, in order to prevent further pressure and torture against the defendants at the hands of the authorities." Amnesty International also affirmed that "confessions had been extracted from the prisoners under torture" ("Der Spiegel", June 28, 1979).

HOODING

The fact that the prisoners have been severely tortured seems to have meanwhile become the main reason, that today, three and a half years after the kidnapping and deportation and over

two years after the announcement of the "trial", the scandalous situation of the two West Germans and their Palestinian fellow defendants remains basically unchanged. The West German prisoners apparently refuse to sign earlier "confessions" extracted under brutal torture, despite Israeli "offers" that if they would do so and keep silent about the torture, they would be released in early 1981. As "Der Spiegel", on June 28, 1977, reported: "There is no proof of the core charges except a confession made by Brigitte Schulz during police investigation. Meanwhile, the defendant has denied it. She says that all statements had been extracted from her during months of torture. There are indications for this fact. The inquiring authorities have applied forcible means against her which were once practiced by the British Mandate authorities, namely hooding. Hereby, the tortured person's head is constricted down to the neck into a closely-woven dark sack, permanently, except for interrogations, a procedure which may lead to an excruciating loss of the sense for orientation. The defendants declare that they have been subjected for months to hooding. It is for sure, at least, that they were brought to the first session of the court with the black hoods bound over their heads." "Der Spiegel" also reported that Reuter's Israeli lawyer speculates that his client is still subjected to beating.

HUMILIATION OF THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT

Despite the deadlock of the "trial", the Israeli authorities, fearing possible reports of the prisoners on their terrible experiences, do not dare to release them. Or they even do not see any need for that, given the humiliating cowardice on the part of the West German authorities and official media in the face of the brutal violation of the most basic rights of two of their citizens. As a matter of fact, after the brief publicity which the case attracted in spring

Humiliation for the West German Government: West German Foreign minister Genscher visiting Israeli Crime minister Begin in March 1977



1977, West German circles have done nothing to get the kidnapped and tortured young people set free. And West German parliamentarians, politicians and organisations, apparently afraid of reprisals from Zionist propaganda, have so far not dared to break the wall of general silence surrounding the case in the dominant West German media which still are heavily blocked by taboos towards Israel and influenced by Zionist-styled "re-education" and manipulation following the Nazi crimes.

It is also imaginable that the leniency of the West German authorities has to do with their own gloomy record on political prisoners. While Nixon, Calley and other perpetrators of war crimes during the Vietnam war have been "rehabilitated" for a long time, the West German government continues to persecute and hold under appalling prison conditions scores of young people connected with resistance activities against the genocide in Vietnam. Still in late May 1979, a West German court has sentenced Irmgard Moeller, the only surviving prisoner of the Stammheim massacre in October 1977, to life imprisonment only because of her alleged involvement in a bomb blast against the U.S. military headquarters at the time of the peak of the Vietnam holocaust.

FREEDOM FOR BRIGITTE SCHULZ AND THOMAS REUTER

The case of Brigitte Schulz and Thomas Reuter and of their Palestinian fellow sufferers exposes some shameful facts.

It shows the absence of any rule of law and justice in the Zionist settler state. Behind the democratic cover, and no matter whether there is a Labour, Likud, Rabin, Peres or Begin government in power, the web of Zionist gangsters, militarists and secret police exert their criminal and arbitrary rule of lies, violence and blackmail.

It also shows a shameful cowardice and connivance on the part of the government and media of "powerful" West Germany, which are unable or unwilling to safeguard the basic rights and interests of two of their citizens against Israeli arrogance and blackmail.

The wall of silence erected around the Schulz-Reuter scandal must be broken. We appeal to all people who consider the spreading rule of Israeli arrogance and terror a threat to the interests in security and peace all over the world, to intervene with West German and Israeli authorities for the immediate release of the defendants in the Schulz-Reuter case, and for putting an end to the terrible conditions both Palestinian and other political prisoners continue to be subjected to in Israeli jails.

THE GENERATION OF VICTORY

"You are the generation of victory. I see in you the revolutionary decision emanating from the revolutionaries of the Palestinian Resistance", Arafat on August 2, 1979 addressed the 2,500 "Ashbal" (Cubs) and "Zahrat" (Flowers) in "Martyr Ezzeddine al-Qalq" training session in Damascus. The children, whose ages ranged from 6 to 17, came from all over the globe, from the occupied territories, from the Arab countries, from Europe and also from North America and South America. They came from their homes to live for five weeks in harsh conditions, they all want to be together, united as they will be in the future in a free, liberated Palestine.

The Ashbal institution which was established in 1969 offered an interesting program for this session. The children could choose between different activities: in the fields of art, gymnas-

tics or education. There were of course political and military education. Ahmed, one of the Cubs says: "I am a Palestinian living in Libya, while Mahmoud, my friend, is a Palestinian living in Abu Dhabi. Why are we so scattered? Why can't we live together in our homeland?" Ahmad says that he is very pleased to be in the Ashbal camp. When we saw him he was on his way to guard his tent.

"WORLD WOULD NOT LISTEN TO US IF WE WERE WEAK"

Hundreds of tents have been erected in the camp in parallel ranks. To the Palestinian, a tent means tragedy and disaster, because it reminds him of his exodus, of those Palestinians who are still living inside ragged tents waiting till they can go back "home". But it is not that kind of



"World would not listen if we were weak"



Chairman Arafat sponsoring the graduation

tent. For these tents are revolutionary ones. They hold a promise for these children who are living far away from their homeland. They mean hope and victory coming soon. "I want to know how to use a rifle. I have to see, we must be strong because the world would not listen to us if we were but weak conquered people," said one of the Ashbal.

"ABU KHALIL" FROM OCCUPIED PALESTINE

Among the 2,500 children attending the camp, some came from occupied Palestine. And those had a unique experience. Khalil Abu Khalil is a good example. He said that he came to live in a revolutionary camp for some time with his fellows, and he added: "I came here because I do not want to learn Hebrew. They are forcing us to do that". We do not need to ask who are 'they'. All children in the camp call Khalil "Abu Khalil", and he is very proud of the name. He does not like to watch movies for children. He preferred "The Small Hero" film.

"Why", we asked. The answer was: "Because every time they see the 'small hero' they beat him and his parents too. He begged them, but it was no good. So he learned and took by force the soldier's weapon. His fellows learned how to act like he did. At last they won."

— How about you? Did 'they' beat you?"

— Yes... The occupation troops used to hit me with the bottoms of their rifles. Once, we were (my friends and I) taking a walk in a field, our field, gathering strawberries and watching birds when we met a Zionist settler who hates children very much because they participate in demonstrations. He scowled at us and we threw stones at him. He chased us till my friend stopped to watch a bird on a tree. The settler then shot him in his leg. We could not have imagined that he might do that so easily. We attacked him with our stones and he ran away. We pressed our friend's leg till the bullet came out. Then I tore my shirt and tied it carefully. It was me who told his parents what happened."



This is an experience through which Abu Khalil has learned. It is obvious that he deserves his name. It shows also under what bad conditions our children are living under the Zionist-racist occupation. Abu Khalil is certain to be one of our people's heroes. Maybe he is already. "If I forgot the revolution, and my friends forgot it too, then there would be no revolution. No, I shall never, never forget my revolution", he said. To understand better why Abu Khalil feels like this, one must remember the hundreds of Palestinian children who are now out of school inside our occupied land, and who are forced to work for the Israeli capitalists or in the Zionist settlements in exchange for a cheap price. Those children are herded in the Israeli slave markets everywhere in occupied Palestine. One might ask: where is international opinion? Why does the world keep silent on such cases and on the children who are being killed daily in South Lebanon for no reason at all except Israel's greediness and its brutality?

JIHAD: "I'LL STOP THE ISRAELIS"

In another tent we saw Jihad, a Lebanese child from South Lebanon. He just came from a training session on using the Kalashnikov rifle. Nine years old, with a bright smile in his eyes, he told me his dream: "I'll stop the Israelis from entering South Lebanon. I'll know how to use a Kalashnikov very well, then I'll go back to my village to defend it. Let then those Israelis try to enter my village! They had occupied the Arab Palestine, but they are not going to occupy my village because I'll stand with my Palestinian friends firmly in one rank to defeat them and to liberate Palestine"

PAWLA: IN SOLIDARITY

Pawla George (9) is an Argentinian. But she is there with her sister Lucia. She had learned Arabic in Beirut two years ago, and learned at the same time about the Palestinian cause. She has her version of history: "The Zionists told every one that they are going to give the Palestinians their lands back. But they are liars. They left the Palestinians to die of hunger and cold in ragged tents. The wind used to make the tents fly away many times. Then the Palestinians had the Revolution. Many people made a movement which they named "Al-Fateh". Many people work now in the Revolution. Abu Amar (Yasser Arafat) is the leader of the Palestinians."

Pawla likes to draw. "The first drawing I have made shows a Palestinian with his family in a tent. People came and shot at the tent. The Palestinian shot back. He died, but his son became a Feda'ii."

"WE ARE THE ENEMY'S LONG NIGHT"

Children are usually afraid of darkness. But the Ashbal and Zahrat love the night. When the lights are turned off at 10 o'clock, movement begins all through the camp. This is the watch-night for Salma. She is marching around the camp, watching over her friends.

— Aren't you afraid of the darkness, Salma?

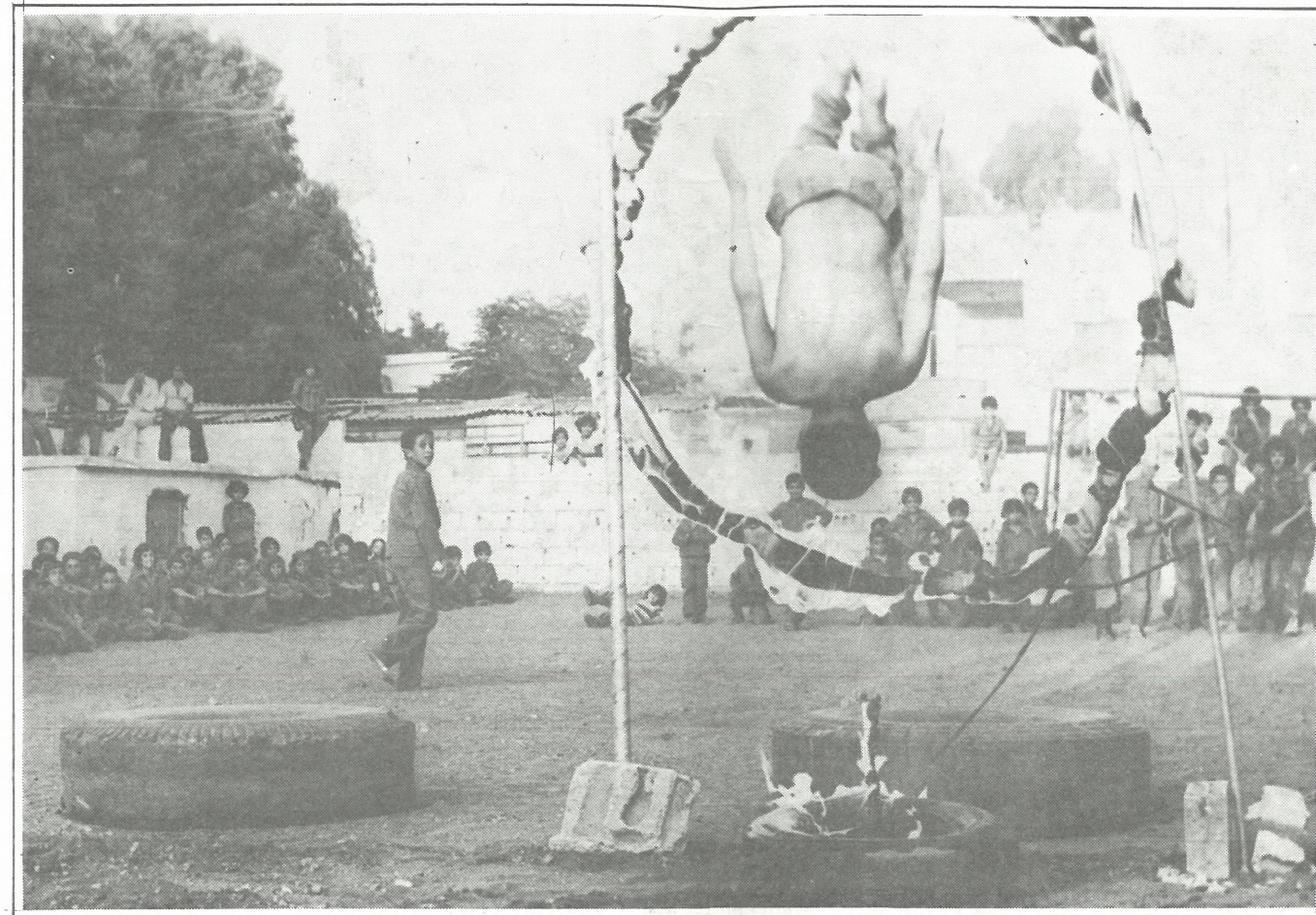
— No. We are the enemy's long night!

So, Salma keeps on walking with a rifle on her shoulder and a poetic longing for Palestine in her soul.

ARAFAT AT GRADUATION

On August 2, Chairman Arafat sponsored the graduation of these Cubs and Flowers. Facing 2,500 pairs of proud eyes, Arafat said:

"The graduation of this session, named after Ezzeddine al-Qalaq, who was martyred one year ago together with his comrade Adnan Hammad, confirms that Palestine, which was lost through capitulation, will only be regained with blood and waves of martyrs. A few days ago we lost a Palestinian leader and militant, Zuheir Muhsin, who joins the huge procession of martyrs. We train these Ashbal and Zahrat because they are the generation of victory; let Carter, Begin and their agent Sadat be aware that Palestinian lion cubs will move from Damascus to raise the Palestinian flag over Jerusalem, just as the Vietna-



"I shall never forget Palestine"

mese farmers before them moved from Hanoi to Saigon.

"It is in this context of this succession of martyrs that we can understand the brutality of the current attacks on the Palestinian Revolution and the PLO. We were aware of this when we heard the Knesset's decision to annihilate the PLO, its leadership and its cadres. No one will kneel down in this Revolution and no one will threaten this Revolution. The one hundred days of air, sea and land attacks will only increase our determination and our strength. I say, let them use any U.S. weapons they like. The U.S. had used all its weapons in Vietnam and their Ambassador nevertheless was forced to escape in a U.S. helicopter. Those U.S. weapons, even the internationally banned ones, will not defeat the Palestinian Revolution, and in one of those U.S. planes the last occupier will one day leave Jerusalem.

"I see in you the revolutionary decision emanating from the revolutionaries of the Palestinian Resistance; I don't say the Palestinian

revolutionaries, because there are also Arab revolutionaries carrying guns side-by-side with us in order to raise the banner of the Arab Nation and stress that this land is Arab."

The Cubs and Flowers then marched in a military parade and performed symbolic commando operations, following which Arafat handed prizes to the winners.

Then one of the Zahrat (Flowers) delivered a speech in which she said: "We shall raise the flag of revolution and join the revolutionaries, and thousands of our people and nation will follow us. We are the Ashbal, the generation of victory. We had learned who is our enemy, and who is our friend, we have learned how to fight. And we shall fight and struggle to liberate our beloved homeland, Palestine."

The Ashbal and Zahrat have returned now to their 'other' homes. But they all carry now one important address. Palestine, on the road of popular struggle.



Qabus-style 'reforms': luxuries for the despot, poverty for the people

PFLO: ON THE ROAD TO FREEDOM

1979 to date has witnessed the resurgence of an important liberation movement in the Gulf — the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman (the PFLO). Conventional Western political wisdom had marked the PFLO as completely destroyed in the wake of a series of military defeats in 1975 and early 1976. These defeats were the culmination of a successful two-sided British-U.S. strategy to crush the growing revolutionary movement in strategic Oman, which was fuelled by the intense hatred of the Omani people for the then Sultan Said Ben Taimor, a corrupt feudal leader, who was notable only for his inventive tortures and his loyalty to the British Empire. The British permitted the Omani despot his palace and luxuries in return for the control of Oman the British had enjoyed since the beginning of this century.

In 1970, the British replaced Ben Taimor

with an allegedly more "modern" leader, Sultan Qabus. Qabus-style "modernity" meant rhetorical slogans of reform, coupled with the encouragement of tribal divisions and the reorganization of Omani intelligence and the repressive apparatus. The other side of the strategy was the British version of the Nixon Doctrine, which encouraged regional clients to act on behalf of the West. After 1970, thousands of crack imperial Iranian troops, equipped with sophisticated U.S. weapons, including napalm and other anti-personnel weapons, battled the PFLO on Omani soil, causing vast destruction of civilian lives and properties. An international cast of mercenaries and other troops from reactionary states recruited by the British joined in as well. For good measure, the Shah of Iran occupied three strategic Arab islands near Oman in November of 1970. In the ensuing years, the Omani revolution fought bravely, but an extensive military

campaign spearheaded by Iranian troops in late 1975 inflicted serious military losses.

The reasons for this massive military intervention in Oman are clear. The PFLO stated them succinctly in its Thirteenth Anniversary of the Revolution Broadcast in the summer of 1978. They noted: "The strategic position of Oman, which controls the entrance into the Arabian Gulf (the narrow Straits of Hormuz), and the danger of the Omani revolution to all huge oil interests of imperialism in this area, pushed the American and British imperialists in this area and their local puppets to mobilise huge powers, weapons and forces against the peaceful and militant people, which is fighting for its legitimate rights."

But this campaign only succeeded in the short-term. The PFLO patiently rebuilt its military and social institutions, including mass democratic organizations like the Omani Women's Federation and the Omani Youth, which mobilized the population to demand their basic rights. At the same time, the Iranian revolution brought winds of change to the entire Gulf region that dramatically affected Oman, where the Shah's troops once reigned supreme. With the coming to power of the revolution, Iranian troops were ordered to withdraw from Oman.

QABUS' SELL OUT TO U.S.

Sultan Qabus, however, had already requested help from another quarter — from the Shah's logical successor, Anwar Sadat. It is reported that several thousand Egyptian troops are already stationed in Oman, backed by Washington. The Middle East of August 1979 noted that these troops are among ten cases of Egyptian arms or military personnel sent to African or Gulf countries in recent months. Qabus has also opened his arms to the United States, offering them facilities at the old British base of Masirah. The U.S. will also place sensitive monitoring equipment in Oman for surveillance of the Straits and in May, "granted" Qabus a special aid package. In return, Qabus has become a fervent supporter of Sadat's policies and the Egyptian-Israeli treaty.

TURNING POINT AFTER SHAH'S OVERTHROW

Nonetheless, the PFLO has scored both diplomatic and military gains in the months following the overthrow of the Shah. On May 7, the PFLO conducted a sizeable and successful military operation against the British-led Omani army, described by the "International Herald Tribune" as the "first sizeable clash in more than a year." Columnist Andrew Borowiec added a strong recommendation that the U.S. should "heed



"Seizable military operation"

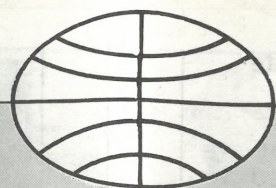
Oman strife" and give full backing to its "friend" Qabus.

On the diplomatic front, recent PFLO delegations have visited Iran, Iraq and the U.S.S.R. to explain the importance of their struggle for freedom and democracy and against foreign intervention. The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, which has been a consistent and firm ally of the PFLO, has also aided in explaining the Omani struggle to the Arab and international community.

The tide is turning for Oman's feudal sultanate and the few big Omani landowners who profit from the exploitation of the majority of the people. It is turning also for the British, who still have 6000 British officers in Oman, for the U.S. and for its puppet Sadat, who has committed Egyptian troops to a losing colonial war. On May 20, the Voice of the Omani Revolution transmitted an appeal to the Egyptian troops and said "you know we are not killers but rather possessors of a cause" and that "Sadat has sent you to Oman as tools to implement some of the designs of the American masters."

In its Fourteenth Anniversary Message on June 9, 1979, the PFLO noted that it would "certainly contribute to the overthrow of traitor Sadat" and said "Our slogan this year will be: 'Let us intensify the struggle to rout the traitors and the agents in Oman territory, as represented by the regimes of Sadat and Qabus and their repressive forces and for the liquidation of the British and American bases and forces in our country.'"

Faced with such common enemies, the ties between the Palestinian and Omani revolutions, which have always existed, are bound to strengthen, as the two peoples struggle to defeat the imperialist plan in the region and create a free and independent Palestine and a free and independent Oman.



U.S. FIRM, CIA, PENTAGON: SECRET ARMS SHIPMENTS TO SOUTH AFRICA, ISRAEL

In a story that highlights U.S. complicity with the apartheid regime in South Africa, the "Washington Post" revealed on August 8 that a U.S.-Canadian munitions firm with close Pentagon ties has illegally supplied the apartheid government of South Africa with special 155 mm shells that have 20 percent greater range than standard ammunition. The Post quoted secret U.S. government documents that name the U.S. Space Research Corporation (SRC) in this arms-smuggling scheme and say that "about 55,000 artillery shells, along with instructions on how to duplicate them, were exported from the United States and Canada to South Africa in 1977-1978, thanks in part to the Pentagon, which 'unwittingly' shipped at least 1700 rounds on vessels chartered by the U.S. Navy to the port of Antigua," where they were shipped to South Africa.

Government complicity goes beyond this "unwitting" use of U.S. vessels. One high-ranking State Department official said: "It is inconceivable to me that someone, either in the Pentagon or in Langley (headquarters of the CIA) did not at least know about this operation or, more likely, have a hand in it." In fact, former CIA officer John Stockwell, at one time head of the agency's Angola task force, has written that in October 1975, "the South Africans requested through the CIA station chief in Pretoria, ammunition for their 155 mm howitzers," apparently for use against Cuban troops in Angola.

Similar secret arrangements have been made with Israel, the Post reported, quoting a former CIA official: "Following the 1973 Middle East War, the Pentagon secretly arranged for Israel to purchase from SRC about 50,000 rounds of specially shaped 175mm shells that were capable of reaching downtown Damascus from hardened emplacements on the Golan Heights."

PATRIOTIC FRONT: SETTLER ARMY IN ZIMBABWE MUST BE DISMANTLED

Robert Mugabe, co-leader of the Patriotic Front, stated on August 2 that the Patriotic Front forces must be accepted as the army of Zimbabwe, and the settler army, air force and police must be dismantled, if the new British Commonwealth proposals for a Zimbabwean settlement were to be acceptable. He also noted that any draft constitution must lead to the dismissal of the illegal Muzorewa regime.

These proposals represent a shift of a sort for new British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who came to power with a program of lifting sanctions against the Muzorewa regime. British economic interests and trade with Black Africa are thought to be a major element in the change of policy, especially in the wake of the recent nationalization of British Petroleum by Nigeria, on the grounds of BP's involvement with the racist South African regime. In addition, government officials of the Muzorewa regime, according to the British "Guardian" newspaper, believe that Thatcher's actions were caused by a

"desire to finesse the Patriotic Front and gain wider recognition for the Salisbury regime," presumably by proposing a constitution that the Patriotic Front will be unable to accept. The "Guardian", noting that the British government has been sending messages to Muzorewa "not to worry," quoted a senior businessman in Salisbury as saying: "This is beginning to look like the greatest con trick Mrs. Thatcher has pulled since she came to power."

Meanwhile, the Muzorewa regime has stepped up its repression against all forms of opposition, arresting 450 officials and supporters of Reverend Sithole in July alone. On July 27, in his presentation of the annual budget, Finance Minister David Smith unashamedly called it a "war budget" and noted that 37%, or 450,000 pounds a day, went to fight the guerillas of the Patriotic Front. This announcement came at a time when the poverty among the Zimbabwean population has reached staggering proportions. A study released by the University of Rhodesia in July affirmed that the absolute standard of living of urban blacks had seriously declined, and most urban blacks now live below the poverty line.

CUBAN PEACE MOVEMENT CALLS FOR SUPPORT OF PLO

The Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples has called on all peace loving forces in the world, in a communique issued in Havana on July 31, to offer all possible aid to the Palestinian people's struggle under PLO leadership. The movement also emphasized the need to recognize Palestinian national rights and implement UN resolutions regarding complete Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967.

IRANIAN SOCIETY FOR SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINE APPEALS TO U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL

The Executive Committee of the Iranian Society for Solidarity with Palestine asserted its support for the Palestinian people's right to return, to self determination and to establish their own state. In a cable to the UN Security Council sent on July 30th, the society asked for the implementation of UN resolutions regarding Palestinian rights. It stated that neglecting these rights would constitute a threat to international peace and security. The Society also called on the Security Council to stop Israel's savage attacks against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

HALHOUL MAYOR MEETS PALESTINE SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE

The Palestine Solidarity Committee, whose headquarters are in New York, met with the Mayor of Halhoul Mohammad Hassan Melhem, on August 1. Both sides discussed current developments in the area, and the Mayor of Halhoul answered the Committee's questions. The PSC has been active in organizing U.S. campaigns in support of Palestinian rights.

THE PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY IN NORTH AMERICA SUPPORTS PLO

With the goal of achieving greater communication and coordi-

nation of the Palestinian Community in North America, the Palestine American Congress held its first meeting in December 1978 at the Biltmore Hotel in New York City. A Preparatory Committee was then created and empowered to prepare a Working Paper, a draft constitution for a structure for collective work among the Palestinian community in North America. This draft Constitution will serve as the basis of the agenda of the Constitutional Convention for the Palestine American Congress which will take place on August 17-19, 1979. The actual Founding Congress will then take place in January 1980.

The Palestinian Community in North America adheres to the principles that the Palestinian people constitute an indivisible national unit, that Palestine is their national homeland and that the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the PLO, is the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative. It also affirms its support of the Palestinian people's struggle to realize their national rights, including their right to return to their national homeland, to national self-determination and to their national independence and sovereignty in all of Palestine.

THE FAEROE PEOPLE LEARN ABOUT THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE

Halfway between Norway and Iceland, out in the North Atlantic Ocean, lies the Faeroe Islands — an autonomous region under Denmark. Their 42,000 inhabitants have their own language and their own flag. They live mainly from fishing and fish processing industry. This summer, the islands received a traveller from Norway with important things in her luggage. It was Nina, a nurse who worked in South Lebanon in 1977-78, sent by the Norwegian Palestine Committee to serve the PLO. Now she came to the Faeroe Islands for a vacation, but also with material about PLO and pictures from her work in Lebanon.

Meetings were arranged, one in the capital Thorshavn. Nina was also interviewed on Faeroe Radio for a program about the history of the Palestinians. She called on her audience to start solidarity work for the PLO. As a first step, many subscribed to the publications from the Norwegian committee. But we hope to have news soon about the birth of a Faeroe Islands Palestine Committee, working for the PLO among 42,000 people on 18 small islands out in the North Atlantic Ocean.

REDGRAVE ATTACKED FOR HER DEFENSE OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

Oscar-winning actress Vanessa Redgrave came under a barrage of attack from Zionist organizations in the U.S. when it was announced in early August that she had been chosen to play Fania Fenlon, a half-Jewish survivor of the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz, in an upcoming CBS television production. Redgrave, who has been a consistent defender of Palestinian rights and who narrated the documentary "The Palestinian," has also frequently affirmed her deep opposition to anti-semitism and all forms of racism.

The tactics employed against Redgrave, however, take no notice of her real views and are reminiscent of the McCarthyite "black-listing" that swept Hollywood in the 1950s, denying actors and actresses employment if they were considered to have "leftist" leanings. This is now considered a shameful episode in American history. Arthur Miller, a noted playwright who wrote the screenplay for the CBS program, noted that "Ms. Redgrave was offered the role of Fania Fenlon as an actress suited for it. To fire her now for her political views would be black-listing..." It remains to be seen, however, if many of Redgrave's colleagues in American entertainment and drama circles will buck the powerful Zionist lobby to defend her against this unprincipled attack.



Mother meets her son who escaped fighting from Tal al-Zaatar through the mountains

TAL AL-ZAATAR IN OUR HEARTS UNTIL VICTORY

On August 12, 1976 the Palestinian camp of Tal al Zaatar fell to the forces of fascism after a savage 54 day siege which left the poor Lebanese and Palestinian population of the camp without electricity, food, water or medical supplies. The largely civilian population of the camp had defended it to the bitter end. In a communique smuggled out of the camp on July 13, the people of Tal al Zaatar explained why: "We have survived hunger, thirst and a total lack of medicines, with a potential for steadfastness which no one can paralyze or break. For we know that in defending our camp, we are in fact defending our very existence, the life of our people, their will to exist, and their determination to struggle for their return to their homeland."

The fascists intended to make the fall of Tal al Zaatar a decisive blow for the Palestinian revolution and its Lebanese allies. On the final day, they massacred at least 1000 civilians from the camp, including most of the remaining male population. In the ensuing days, they razed Tal al Zaatar to the ground. Three years later, the

horror of this massacre is not blunted, and the words of its survivors still echo. Wafika Wehbi, a 50 year old woman from Tal al Zaatar described her flight thusly: "They killed my five children in front of my eyes. In Dekwaneh they had told me that I could keep one. They asked me to choose. It was horrible, the youngest remained with me. At the Museum, they took him as well. When I told them that I was promised to keep him they answered: "All young men must die."

But the steadfastness of the people of Tal al Zaatar has had an even louder voice. It has inspired the Palestinian people everywhere, and the lessons of Tal al Zaatar — to resist fascism, Zionism and imperialism at all costs — are applied daily by the people and fighters in South Lebanon, by the people in the occupied land, and by all those who struggle for freedom. In Damour, the teenage survivors of Tal al Zaatar now face the Israeli bombs with the same courage they and their martyred parents or relatives showed at Tal al Zaatar. Tal al Zaatar truly lives in our hearts until victory.

"TENT No. 50"

(SONG OF A REFUGEE)



BY RASHID HUSSEIN

*Tent #50, on the left, is my new world,
shared with me by my memories:
Memories as verdant as the eyes of spring,
memories like the eyes of a woman weeping,
and memories the color of milk and love.*

*Two doors has my tent, two doors like two wounds.
One leads to the other tents, wrinklebrowed
like clouds no longer able to weep;
and the second—a rent in the ceiling, leading
to the skies,
revealing the stars
like refugees scattered,
and like them, naked.*

*Also the moon is trudging there
downcast and weary as the UNRWA,
yellow as though it were the UNRWA
under a load of yellow cheese for the refugees.*

*Tent #50, on the left, that is my present,
but it is too cramped to contain a future.
And — "Forget!" they say, but how can I?*

*Teach the night to forget to bring
dreams showing me my village
and teach the wind to forget to carry to me
the aroma of apricots in my fields!
and teach the sky, too, to forget to rain.*

Only then, I may forget my country.

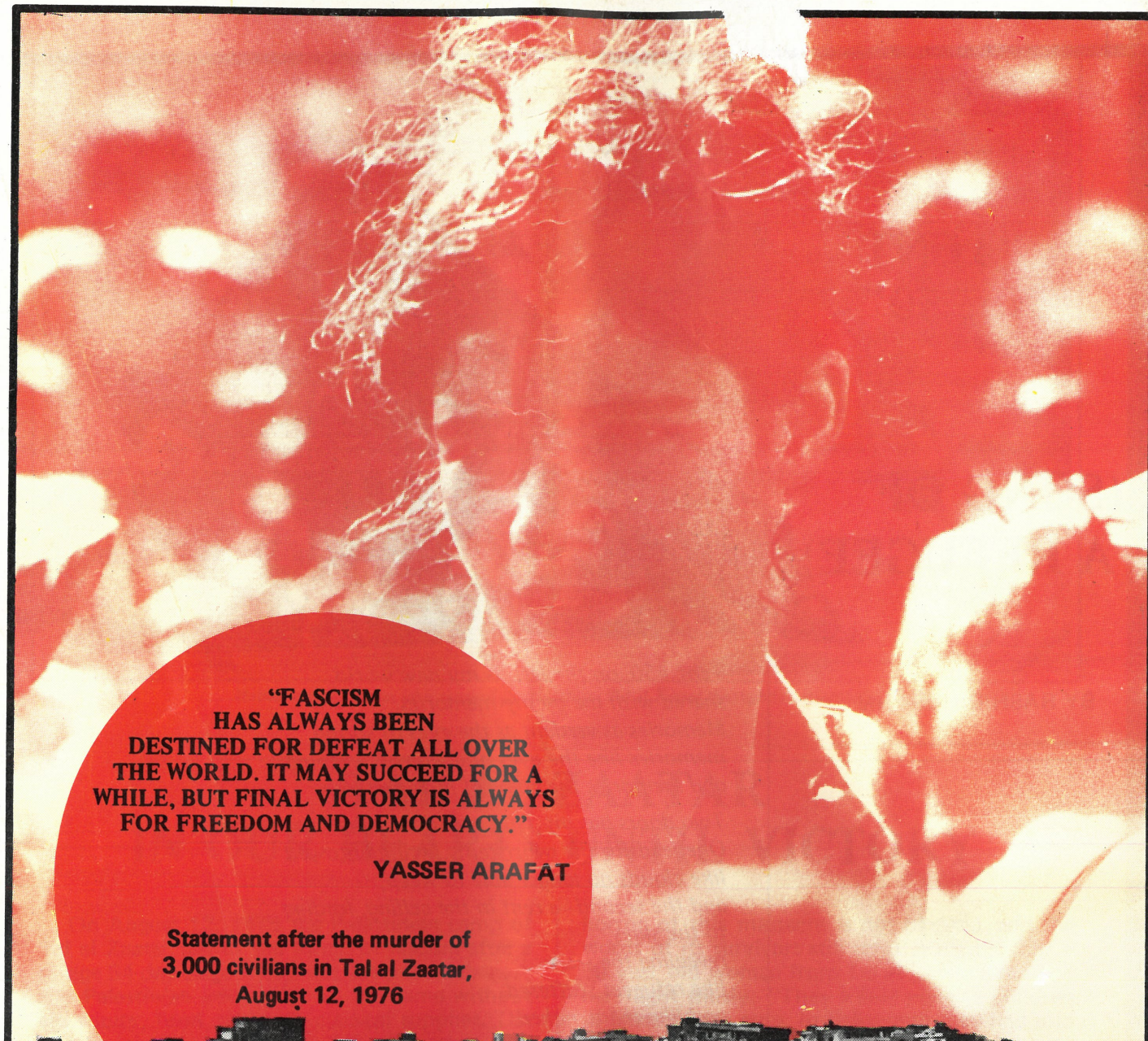
(Rashid Hussein, a beloved Palestinian poet, died in February of 1977 in New York City;
"Tent No. 50" was published in the Washington-based Palestine Perspectives, February 1979).

Palestine

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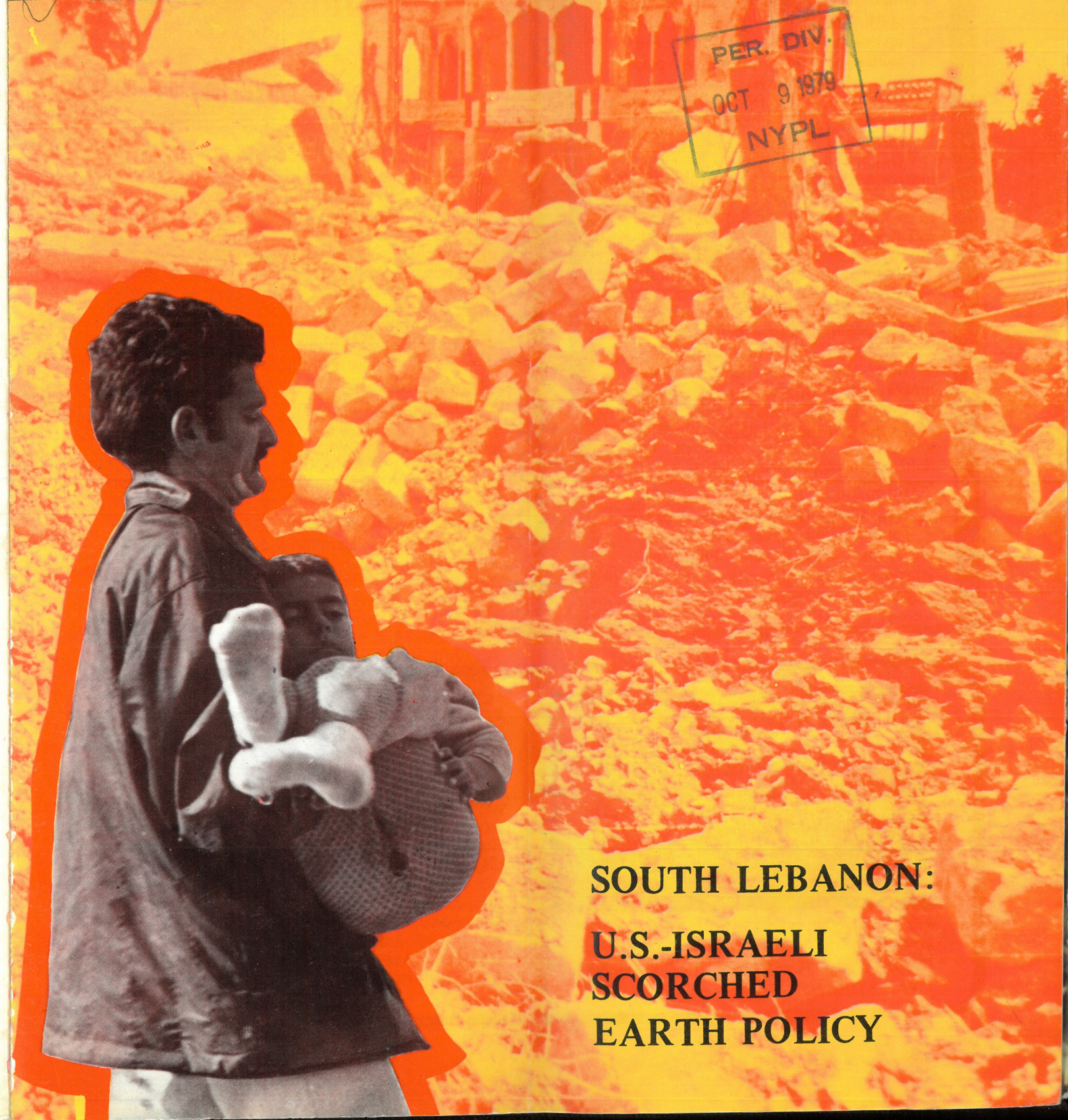
"FASCISM
HAS ALWAYS BEEN
DESTINED FOR DEFEAT ALL OVER
THE WORLD. IT MAY SUCCEED FOR A
WHILE, BUT FINAL VICTORY IS ALWAYS
FOR FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY."

YASSER ARAFAT

Statement after the murder of
3,000 civilians in Tal al Zaatar,
August 12, 1976



TAL AL ZAATAR



**SOUTH LEBANON:
U.S.-ISRAELI
SCORCHED
EARTH POLICY**