

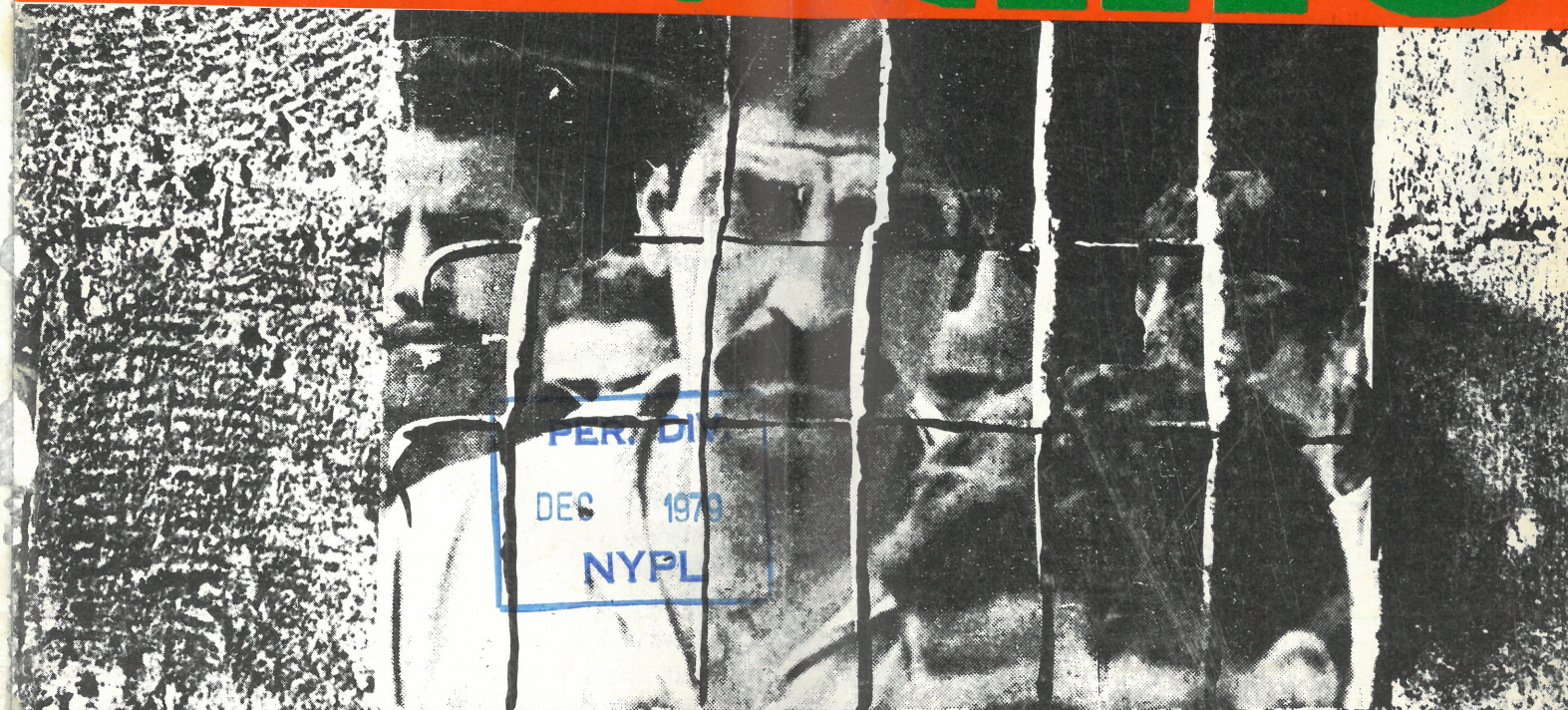


"HARVEST"
BY SLEIMAN MANSOUR
(OCCUPIED PALESTINE)

Palestine

P.L.O.
information
bulletin

Vol. 5, No. 19
16-31 October 1979



**FREE PALESTINIAN PATRIOTS
FROM ISRAELI JAILS**

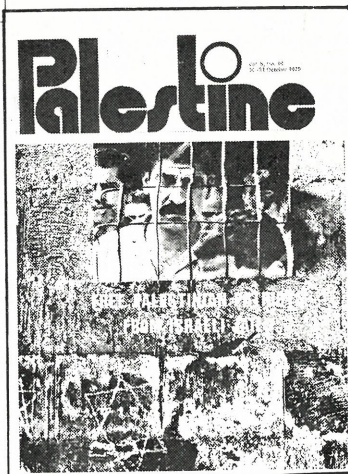
TO OUR READERS

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.

CONTENTS



Editorial	3
Palestine Notes	4
30th Anniversary of GDR:	
PLO Participates in Celebrations	8
Camp David Stalemate:	
No Palestinian Rights — No Peace	9
U.S. Stepping Up Military Interference in Middle East	11
Occupation Diary	13
Demonstrations and Strikes	
Against Racist Israeli Education Policy	15
Armed Resistance	16
Israel: The Rot Sets In	17
Zionism In Practice	20
Palestinian Prisoners of War	
On Strike In Zionist Jails	21
World Events	25
Latin America Confronts U.S.A.	27
Solidarity	29
Palestinian Artists Under Occupation:	
Rooted In Their People's Resistance	31
"Zion Brigands" By Moshe M. Sussholz	35

Palestine

BI-MONTHLY INFORMATION BULLETIN
published in English & French, by
THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANISATION
UNIFIED INFORMATION
P.O. Box: 145168, Tel. 302432
BEIRUT — LEBANON

Partial or total reproduction is freely permitted by
"PALESTINE BULLETIN"

PRICE L.L. 1

Yearly Subscription Rates:

Africa, Asra and Latin America U.S. \$ 16
Europe, USA, Canada and Australia U.S. \$ 20

All cheques should be made out to "PALESTINE BULLETIN" payable to our account, No. 510 805 706 1A, Arab Bank, Ras Beirut Branch, Lebanon.

All copies of "PALESTINE BULLETIN" will be sent by air mail.

NOTICE: "PALESTINE BULLETIN" welcomes contributions, letters and articles from its friends and readers.

EDITORIAL

PALESTINE FIRST

Klibi to prepare for the imminent Arab summit on Lebanon. But in spite of the many doctors, the ailing body of Lebanon is not easily to be cured.

The sickness of the Lebanon doesn't come from Lebanon itself — it is an infection from the whole Middle Eastern problem. More accurately, it is an infection from the Palestinian tragedy. Before working out plans to cure the Lebanese situation, the doctors have to deal with the main cause which is the Palestinian cause. Southern Lebanon cannot be pacified as long as the Israelis are insisting on controlling the area through the renegade Major Saad Haddad. Lebanon itself cannot be pacified as long as the different factions of Lebanese society are not reconciled. The Middle East conflict in general cannot be calmed or settled as long as the Israelis insist upon carrying out their policy of occupation, aggression and expansion.

Meanwhile it is very important to state that the Camp David talks concerning "self-administration" for the West Bank and Gaza have lost their momentum. President Carter is campaigning for the presidency and he needs movement in his blocked Camp David initiative. His election campaign needs to display a success and he hasn't had many. Begin's intransigence is spoiling the successful image of a presidential campaigner. Dayan's resignation was ostensibly in protest against the cabinet's settlement policy and was aimed at moving the situation, but as yet has not born fruit. Begin is still holding on to his cabinet irrespective of the internal and external pressure.

Everybody is worried about the situation in the Middle East. A French envoy, a U.S. envoy and the Arab League Chief are coming to the Middle East to work out a plan for the ailing body of Lebanon. The French are worried about Lebanon, the Americans are worried about their Camp David agreement which is stuck in an impasse, and the Arabs for different reasons sent

All the initiatives to cure the ailing situation in Lebanon therefore will not be successful. The Israelis are the main party who are not interested in settling the situation in the country. They are more interested in keeping the Arabs fighting among themselves and they have a great interest in keeping the south of Lebanon under their control.

The arrogant policy of the Israelis doesn't come out of thin air. If the U.S. administration really wants to bring about a peace in the region, they have to stop supporting the Israelis with all the destructive weapons. The U.S. administration has to convince their Israeli allies to adopt a more realistic policy in the Middle East. But working out plans which are mainly directed against the Palestinian people and their legal representative, the PLO, are doomed to failure. The U.S., Israel and their allies have tried several times to liquidate or to by-pass the PLO but haven't been successful. The growing international recognition of the PLO, especially in Western Europe, is the latest evidence that the Palestinian fact is imposing itself on all levels. The U.S. and Israel are the only two allies who don't want to recognize this fact. The Palestine question has to be settled first.

PALESTINE NOTES

NICARAGUA RECOGNISES PLO

Nicaragua has officially recognised the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. At a press conference in New York on October 1, a member of the Nicaraguan revolutionary government announced that his government had decided to recognise the PLO, within the framework of its policy of establishing relations of friendship and cooperation with the various countries and national liberation movements of the world.

ARAFAT RECEIVES DELEGATIONS OF FRENCH C.P. AND FRANCO — PALESTINIAN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

On September 28, Chairman Arafat hosted a lunch in honor of the French Communist Party delegation headed by Politbureau member comrade Maxim Gremetz which visited the PLO in Lebanon. The reception was also attended by the members of the Lebanese Communist Party politbureau, Nadim Abdel Samad and George Batal. On October 2, Chairman Arafat met with a delegation representing the Franco-Palestinian Friendship Association, with whom he discussed the latest developments in the Arab situation, particularly in South Lebanon, as well as French-Palestinian relations.

KYPRIANOU: SUPPORT FOR PALESTINE CAUSE

Cypriot President Spiros Kyprianou in an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper "al-Qabbas" on October 2, confirmed the unchanged position of Cyprus towards the Palestinian people, its support of an independent Palestinian state. He added that the Middle East problem of an independent Palestinian state.



Chairman Arafat meets French C.P. delegation

He added that the Middle East problem must be solved comprehensively, on the basis of a complete, unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and the realisation of the Palestinian people's national rights under the PLO's leadership.

ARAFAT CONGRATULATES PANAMANIAN PRESIDENT

Chairman Yasser Arafat, on October 4, 1979, sent a cable of congratulations to Aristides Royo, President of the Panama Republic, on the occasion of the restoration of Panamanian sovereignty over the Panama Canal. Arafat said that the return of the Canal after seventy-five years of occupation, confirms that the people ultimately regain their rights however long it may take, and that the people's sovereignty over their land is a sacred right. "This victory", Arafat said, "and other similar victories provide us with additional strength as we confront the Zionist-racist enemy who occupy our territories and who is attacking us with U.S.-manufactured weapons.

ARAFAT STRESSES NEED FOR NATIONAL UNITY

Chairman Arafat, on October 3, sent a letter to the Sixth Conference of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) in which he greeted the participants to the conference. Arafat affirmed that this conference, which convened under the slogans of enforcing Palestinian national unity and the unity of struggle between the Lebanese and the Palestinian peoples, will contribute to the development of Palestinian struggle as a whole, until the liberation of Palestine and the building of an independent state on Palestine soil. Arafat further stressed that it is a duty to struggle against the different parties to the Camp David accords which are trying to force the Palestinian people into accepting the self-rule conspiracy. Arafat also denounced the war of annihilation waged against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples by the Zionist authorities with imperialist-manufactured weapons and with the full approval of the U.S. Administration. Arafat finally greeted the members and fighters of the Lebanese National

Movement, as well as all the socialist forces in the world, headed by the Soviet Union. He concluded his letter by calling for the intensification of armed resistance until the liberation of Palestine.

ABU MAIZAR MEETS AUSTRIAN AND VIETNAMESE AMBASSADORS

Abdel Muhsin Abu Maizar, the PLO Official Spokesman, in Damascus received the Austrian Ambassador to Syria, on October 1, 1979. The meeting dealt with the latest developments in the Arab region and PLO-Austrian relation.

On October 4, Abu Maizar met with the Vietnamese Ambassador in Damascus, and discussed with him the latest developments in South-East Asia, particularly with regard to Vietnamese-Chinese negotiations. Bilateral relations between Vietnam and the PLO and ways of strengthening them, were also discussed.

ARAFAT RECEIVES PORTUGUESE C.P. DELEGATE

On October 11, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat received Albano Nunes, member of the Central Committee and Head of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Portuguese Communist Party. The meeting was attended by Abu Saleh, member of the Fateh Central Committee comrade Nadim Abdel Samad, Politburo member of the Lebanese Communist Party; Ali Ishaq of the Palestine Liberation Front; and Ahmad Abdel Rahman, Editor-in-Chief of Falastin al-Thawra. Comrade Nunes handed Chairman Arafat a message from Alvaro Cunhal, General Secretary of the Portuguese Communist Party, in which he reaffirmed the Portuguese Communist Party's support for the Palestinian Revolution in its struggle against the Israeli occupation.

PALESTINIAN JURISTS DEMAND SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE

In a communique issued in Damascus on October 8, 1979, Palestinian Jurists called on all humanitarian committees in the world to support the Palestinian people's struggle and expose Israeli violations of the Geneva Conventions. The communique, released on the anniversary of the October War, condemned the Israeli oppression of Palestinian citizens, the confiscation of Arab land and arbitrary arrests. It saluted all the Arab martyrs and the steadfastness of the Palestinian people under occupation, in their struggle against Zionist occupation and in their attachment to their land.

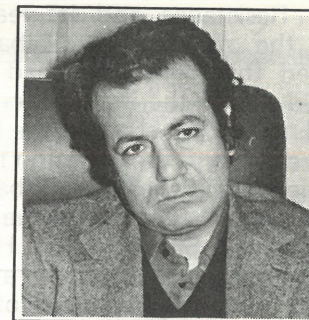
KADDOUMI MEETS POPE AT U.N. AND CONFERS WITH FOREIGN MINISTERS

Farouk Kaddoumi, Head of the PLO Political Department, before leaving the U.N., met on October 9 with the Foreign Minister of Belgium who affirmed his country's position on a Middle East settlement, namely the necessity of achieving a just peace which includes the realisation of the Palestinian's legitimate rights. During his attendance at the U.N. General Assembly debates, Kaddoumi met with the Foreign Ministers of France, Portugal, Yugoslavia, Iran, Bangladesh, Senegal, Cuba, Pakistan, Greece and Turkey. He also met with former U.S. ambassador to the UN, Andrew Young, at one of the formal U.N. receptions. At a reception given by U.N. Secretary General Dr. Kurt Waldheim in honor of the Pope, the Pope formally greeted Kaddoumi and said: "I shall pray for peace and the repatriation of the Palestinians." Farouk Kaddoumi also met with the President of the General Assembly and with U.N. Under Secretary Brian Urquhart, with whom he

discussed the PLO's stand on South Lebanon and the need to implement the U.N. Security Council resolutions which call for the termination of Israeli intervention there.

FAROUK KADDOUMI VISITS FRANCE

Farouk Kaddoumi, Head of the PLO Political Department, arrived in Paris on October 8, 1979, on a short visit to France, where he conducted talks with French officials on the latest developments of the Palestine cause and the current situation in the Middle East. In related news, Ibrahim al-Suss, the PLO representative in Paris, declared that Chairman Yasser Arafat will only visit France as an official guest of the Government.



Farouk Kaddoumi

FAROUK KADDOUMI TO VISIT BELGIUM

On October 11, the Official Spokesman of the Belgian Foreign Ministry announced that Farouk Kaddoumi, Head of the PLO Political Department, will make an official visit to Belgium between October 22 and 25. Abu Lutf will meet with the Belgian Foreign Minister Henri Simonet and with officials of the European Economic Community. In his recent speech before the UN General Assembly, Simonet said that it is difficult to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East without taking into consideration the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

PALESTINE NOTES

CHAIRMAN ARAFAT RECEIVES IRANIAN DEPUTY PREMIER

On October 9, Chairman Arafat received Iranian Deputy Premier Dr. Sadeq Tabatabai. The meeting was attended by Abu Jihad, member of the Fateh Central Committee and of the General Command of the Assifa forces; Abu al-Walid, Director of the Palestinian Revolution's Central Operations; the Iranian Charge d'Affaires; the Mufti al-Jaafari Abdel Amir Qabalan; and the Lebanese Deputy Hussein al-Husseini. The meeting dealt with developments in relations between the two revolutions, recent developments of the Palestinian cause, and the situation in South Lebanon. Dr. Tabatabai carried messages from Ayatollah Khomeini and the Iranian Prime Minister to the Palestinian Resistance and its leaders. After the meeting, Dr. Tabatabai declared that agreement had been reached on all the issues discussed, including South Lebanon, the Palestinian cause and the situation in the occupied territories. Dr. Tabatabai was visiting Lebanon at the invitation of the Shiite Islamic Higher Council. He was received at the airport by a large number of religious men, deputies and by Col. Abu Ta'an, representing the Palestinian Armed Struggle Command.

ARAFAT SENDS MESSAGE TO CONGO PRESIDENT

Chairman Yasser Arafat, on October 9, 1979, sent a message to the Congolese President regarding the latest developments in the Arab region and the conspiracies against the Palestinian people. The message was delivered by the PLO representative in the Congo during a one-hour long meeting with the Congolese President. The President affirmed his country's support for the Palestinian Revolution and pledged to strive by all possible means for the restoration of Palestinian national rights.

MADAGASCAR PRESIDENT SUPPORTS PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE

The President of the Malagasy Republic has affirmed his country's support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people led by the PLO. During his meeting with an official PLO delegation which handed him a message from Chairman Arafat, he declared on October 10 that his country approved the PLO's opening of an office in Madagascar at the time of its choosing.

ARAFAT RECEIVES CABLE FROM KOREAN PRESIDENT

Chairman Yasser Arafat on October 12, 1979, received a cable from Korean President Kim Il Sung, in answer to Arafat's congratulations on the 31st anniversary of the establishment of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea. The cable confirmed the Korean people's support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people against imperialism and Zionism and to restore their national rights and establish an independent state.

PLO TEAM TO MOSCOW OLYMPICS

A Palestinian sports committee has accepted an invitation to send a team to the 1980 Moscow Olympics. The invitation was sent to the Higher Palestinian Council for Sports and Youth. A PLO spokesperson said: "We will be sending Palestinian athletes to take part in as many events as we can." The invitation was sent by the international committee in charge of the Moscow games. Asked if the athletes would be from the Israeli-occupied West Bank, the PLO spokesman said the team would be chosen by the Sports and Youth Council. "It will be a Palestinian team. They will be selected on the basis of their sporting ability."

The spokesperson read a state-

ment by the Sports and Youth Council, which said: "The world must know that Palestinian sports federations are among the oldest in the region. They are members of international federations. These Palestinian federations have maintained their presence and activity in spite of the dispersal of our people. Now it is time for us to return to our positions in international institutions." Palestinian teams have participated before in Arab and Asian games.

PALESTINIAN FILMS AT FESTIVAL IN YUGOSLAVIA

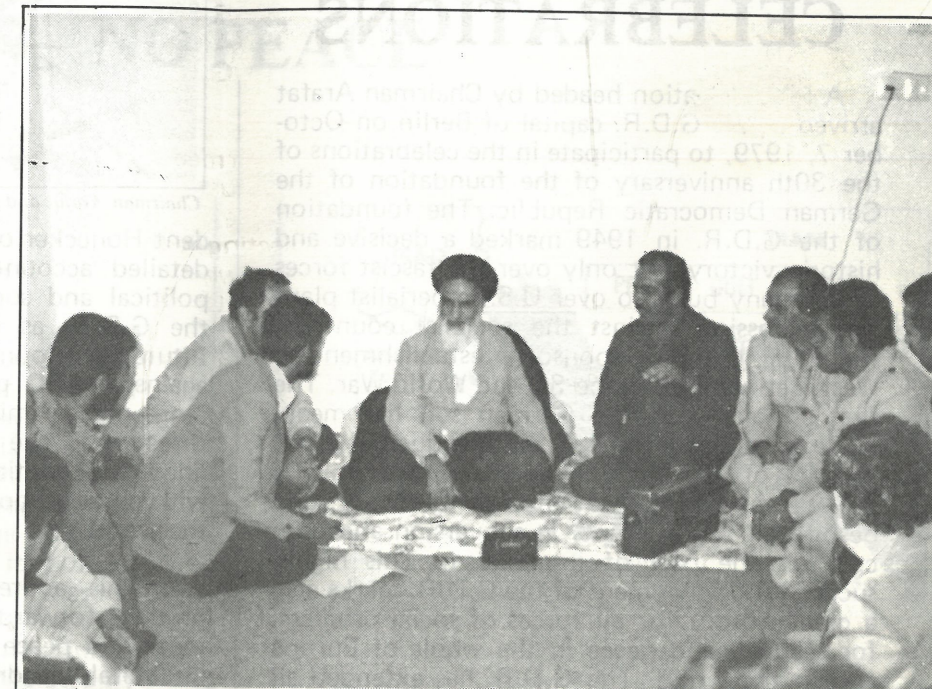
Two films produced by the Palestinian Cinema Institution were shown on October 11 in the city of Herceg Novo in Yugoslavia, during the first festival of television films of the Non-Aligned states. The PLO representative at the festival spoke about Palestinian achievements in the field, pointing to the fact that the PLO only began its regular information work in 1968, after the Battle of Karameh.

ARAFAT MEETS ZAPU DELEGATION

On October 14, Chairman Arafat met with a delegation from the ZAPU movement of Zimbabwe, headed by comrade Samuel Monda Wafa, member of the Executive Committee and of the Revolutionary Council of ZAPU, and including Gordon Botcheh and Noi-quant Yahomiti, members of the Revolutionary Council. The meeting dealt with joint cooperation between the Palestinian Revolution and the Organisation of Union of Zimbabwe People and the need to intensify the struggle against imperialism, racism and Zionism. The delegation, which visited the Palestinian Revolution's institutions, expressed its solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people and its condemnation of Israel's ugly crimes against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in South Lebanon.

ARAFAT MEETS JOINT FORCES IN SOUTH LEBANON

Chairman Yasser Arafat on October 12 visited South Lebanon and met with the commanders and cadres of the Joint Forces there. He briefed them on the latest developments in South Lebanon and praised the steadfastness of the Palestinian and Lebanese fighters during the six month long war of attrition with the isolationist-Israeli forces. He also stressed the importance of Palestinian and Lebanese steadfastness against the U.S.-Israel-Sadat offensive. Arafat finally reviewed the diplomatic activities of the PLO in Western Europe, in confirmation of its role as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people on the international level.



Ayatollah Khomeiny receives Abu Jihad with Fateh delegation

FATEH DELEGATION TOURS IRAN, MEETS KHOMEINY

On October, 12, 1979, a Fateh delegation headed by Abu Jihad, member of the Fateh Central Committee and of the General Command of Al Assifa Forces, also including Abu al-Walid, Col. Fakhri, Revolutionary Council members Sakr and Ghazi al-Husseini, arrived in Iran for an official visit. They were received at the airport by the Iranian Foreign Minister, Dr. Ibrahim Yazdi, and by Hani al-Hassan, the PLO representative in Iran. The Palestinian delegation then headed to Teheran University, where they were received by Imam Ayatollah Muntazari, the Iranian Minister of Education, and a number of cadres of the Iranian Revolution. Dr. Bazargan, the Iranian Prime Minister, also attended. Dr. Yazdi then introduced Abu Jihad to a rally of a million participants. In a speech, Abu Jihad stressed the unity of the Iranian and Palestinian Revolutions, and denounced Israeli attacks on South Lebanon, calling for further unity within the Iranian Revolution, which forms the most important support that can be given to the Palestinian people. Abu Jihad met also with Hijjat al-Islam Hashemi Rafsanjani, with whom

he discussed the latest developments in the Middle East region, especially the situation in South Lebanon. On October 13, Abu Jihad again met with Dr. Yazdi, with whom he discussed developments related to both the Iranian and Palestinian Revolutions, and the current developments in the Middle East region, specifically in South Lebanon.

KHOMEINY: SUPPORT FOR PALESTINE WITH ALL MEANS

On October 15, Abu Jihad and the delegation accompanying him met with Ayatollah Khomeiny in the city of Qom. The meeting focused on the situation in South Lebanon and in the Arab Gulf, and on developments of the Palestine cause. Abu Jihad delivered a message to Ayatollah Khomeiny from Chairman Arafat. Khomeiny told the Palestinian delegation: "The survival of Israel depends on the support of the U.S. The U.S. also supported the Shah, but when the people of Iran rose, the Shah was toppled." Khomeiny confirmed Iran's firm support for the Palestine cause, saying, "Iran will support the Palestinian people with every possible means."

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF G.D.R.:

PLO PARTICIPATES IN BERLIN CELEBRATIONS

A delegation headed by Chairman Arafat arrived in the G.D.R. capital of Berlin on October 7, 1979, to participate in the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the foundation of the German Democratic Republic. The foundation of the G.D.R. in 1949 marked a decisive and historic victory not only over the fascist forces in Germany but also over U.S. imperialist plans for aggression against the socialist countries, following the U.S. sponsored establishment of West Germany after the Second World War. The first socialist state on German soil has meanwhile become the world's tenth industrial state, in spite of many initial shortcomings following the war and the defeat of Nazi Germany, and despite all the attempts at subversion and boycott on the part of imperialism. This highly successful development of the G.D.R. marks also a great victory for all forces of social progress, for security and peace in the whole of Europe and in the world. The G.D.R. has extended all possible political and material support to national liberation movements all over the world and to developing countries. It is no wonder that the anniversary celebrations were attended not only by the leaders of the socialist countries, headed by Soviet President Brezhnev, but also by many leaders from the developing world such as Chairman Arafat, President Sekou Toure of Guinea, SWAPO leader Sam Nujomo and many others. They all received an outstanding welcome and were greeted with slogans like "Long Live International Solidarity" and "Let Solidarity Be Victorious."

In an official message of congratulation to Erich Honecker, First Secretary of the German Unified Socialist Party and President of the State Council of the G.D.R., Chairman Arafat stressed that the struggle of the German people and the sacrifices they had made to establish their socialist state provided a shining example for people's struggles for freedom and independence everywhere. He added that the Palestinian people and their Revolution, led by the PLO, stand proudly this day, marking the triumph of the German people in their struggle against imperialism and fascism and their agents, and in the establishment of their democratic state, for this triumph represents a powerful support for all liberation movements in the world.

In a stirring ceremony on October 7, Presi-



Chairman Arafat and President Honecker at ceremony

dent Honecker opened the festivities and gave a detailed account of the impressive economic, political and social successes in the history of the G.D.R. as well as the prospects for the future development of socialism. He warned against NATO plans to station new U.S. long-range nuclear missile systems in Western Europe threatening the socialist countries. He underlined the continued solidarity of the G.D.R. with all anti-imperialist liberation movements in the world.

In his address, Soviet President Brezhnev brought forward an important initiative for détente and peace in Europe and announced the unilateral withdrawal of Soviet troops and tanks in Europe combined with an offer for a reduction in missiles as "a concrete demonstration of the love of peace and the goodwill of the Soviet Union and its allies." On day before the celebrations started, President Brezhnev and President Honecker had signed an economic protocol that will provide the G.D.R. with Soviet oil, gas and nuclear power plant equipment until 1990 in exchange for ships, tool-making machinery and chemical equipment. The accords also deal with the common development of high-quality consumer goods and are part of a wide-ranging cooperation program between the two countries over the next decade.

On Sunday, October 8, the PLO delegation attended the huge parade of the G.D.R. National Army, as part of the vast celebration program including various social and cultural activities and entertainment.

Chairman Arafat also attended a reception, during which he met with the leaders of the socialist countries, including comrade Leonid Brezhnev, Secretary General of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. While in Berlin, Arafat was received by the President of Guinea, Ahmad Sekou Toure, and discussed with him Palestinian-Guinean relations. On October 8, the PLO delegation returned to Beirut.

CAMP DAVID STALEMATE: NO PALESTINIAN RIGHTS — NO PEACE

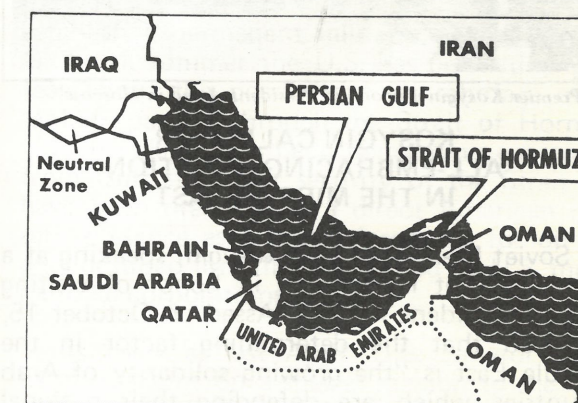
INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER: PALESTINE PROBLEM MORE URGENT THAN EVER

The Middle East and the Palestine problem figured prominently in a speech delivered by Mr. Bedabrata Barua, India's Minister of State for External Affairs, on India's policy towards West Asia. He said the Government of India "believes that there is need, now more than ever, for the international community bringing the utmost pressure on Israel so that it realises the irrationality and the injustice perpetrated by its policies and practices. The latest example of these is Lebanon where the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of a member state of the United Nations has not only been flagrantly violated by brutal and indiscriminate strikes on innocent civilians, but in fact, through proxy, Israel has virtually established hegemony over one area of the country."

Mr. Barua emphasised India's firm commitment to 'the principles which should form the basis of any lasting solution to the dispute in West Asia. The two most crucial requirements for a just and durable settlement are Israeli vacation of the occupied territories and restoration of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinians including the right to return to their homeland and to set up a state of their own. He added: "India's concern for the Palestinian cause springs from emotional bonds, historical necessity and above all, out of respect for international law and justice." ("India News", September 15, 1979).

AAPSO WARNS OF IMPERIALIST PLANS FOR PERSIAN GULF

The Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation warned in the first week of October of plans to create a new imperialist alliance in the Persian Gulf under the pretext of maintaining security of shipping in the Strait of Hormuz. These plans were aimed at weakening the Arab peoples' struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction, said a statement issued by the permanent secretariat. The plans meant calling openly for direct interference by imperialist



states in the Gulf region to safeguard their oil interests. The statement went on to say that it was significant that such plans were suggested at a time when the U.S. fleet was increasing its activities in the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea and when the U.S. was threatening to occupy by force the Gulf region's oil fields.

MOSHE DAYAN'S "AUTONOMY" THREATS

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, seated at the same table with his Egyptian counterpart, Butros Ghali, stated in a press conference in Strassbourg October 10 that Israel would not hesitate to invade once again the "autonomous" West Bank and Gaza Strip envisioned in the Camp David agreements. Dayan said: "If the PLO comes in and takes control we will not tolerate it; we will send our troops back there."

UPSIDE DOWN LOGIC

"We are not isolated, it is the Arab world that is isolated."

(Egyptian Foreign Minister Butros Ghali, in an interview with the Lebanese weekly "Monday Morning", October 15, 1979).



Premier Kosygin welcoming President Assad in Moscow

KOSYGIN CALLS FOR ALL-EMBRACING SOLUTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin, speaking at a state banquet in Moscow in honor of visiting Syrian President Hafez al-Assad on October 15, declared that the determining factor in the Middle East is "the growing solidarity of Arab countries which are defending their national rights and legal interests. They have not only recognized the danger of the course of separate anti-Arab deals but are resisting it decisively," the Soviet premier said. "It is characteristic that in this struggle are participating regimes which differ in their political coloring but which have united on the basis of decisions of the conferences of Arab states. We note with pleasure that Syria is in their front ranks."

"One must also give due to the position of many other Arab states whose leaders are speaking out for an all-embracing solution in the Middle East and have distanced themselves from those who are ready to sell out the vital interests of the Arabs. The more they act in a unified way, the greater their success will be, and the sooner it will be possible to return the process of settling the Middle East situation to the course of collective efforts by all interested parties, including the only legal representative of the Palestine Arab people, the Palestine Liberation Organization."

EGYPT EXPELLED FROM ARAB NAVIGATION CO.

On October 19, the Arab Navigation Company decided to suspend Egypt from membership during its meeting at Arab League headquarters in Tunis. In addition, the Navigation Company decided to move its headquarters from Alexandria to Iraq. The decisions taken at an extraordinary meeting, followed suspension of Egypt from various Arab League bodies after its separate "peace" agreement with Israel.

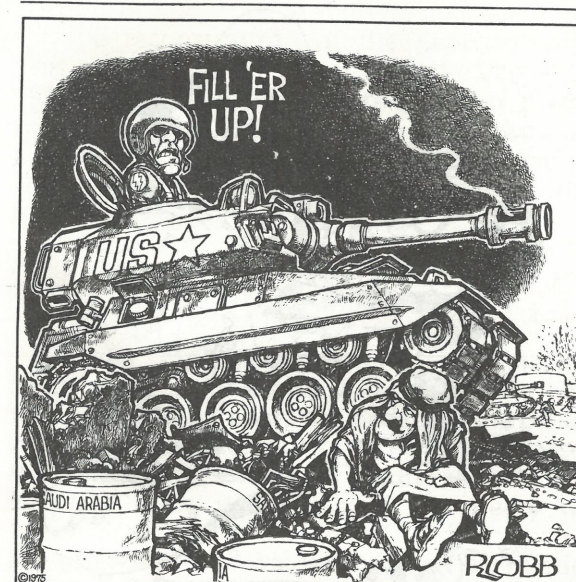
U.S. STEPPING UP MILITARY INTERFERENCE IN MIDDLE EAST

When asked in a press conference on October 9 whether the United States would be willing to intervene militarily in the Middle East, President Carter said that he saw no prospects for U.S. military intervention anywhere in the world. But the Carter Administration decision of last June to rapidly develop a "quick strike" force tells a different story.

Since U.S. imperialism's defeat in Vietnam, the U.S. has turned increasingly to a strategy of employing third party client states to fight in open military confrontations which involve strategic imperialist "concerns". The obvious U.S. "concern" in the Middle East is the control of the flow of oil. Since World War II, Israel has been the loyal client state in the region ready to act as the guarantor of U.S. interests. But in the post-Vietnam period.

Pentagon planners have become uncomfortable with too heavy a reliance on only a single client which in a crisis could stifle American policy options. In the Middle East, there is no lack of willing competitors for U.S. patronage. Iran under the Shah vied with Zionism to fulfill the role of America's best watchdog in the area. In the past two years, the Sadat regime has rushed to out-flank any state in the Middle East in completely capitulating to imperialist designs and Zionism.

This past year U.S. strategic thinking has been upset once again. The overthrow of the Shah resulted in the expulsion of 40,000 American "technicians" from Iran. The loss of the Shah's army to do its bidding and the oil crunch have rudely disturbed U.S. hegemonic ambitions in the Gulf area and regionally. Finally, with the U.S. sponsored Egyptian-Israeli treaty marred by its failure to address the most fundamental national issue facing the Arab world — self-determination for the Palestinian people under the



leadership of the PLO — the U.S. is gearing up for a new strategy option: direct military intervention in the region to ensure settling of accounts on U.S. terms.

"QUICK STRIKE" FORCE

Key to current Pentagon planning for U.S. Middle East policy enforcement is the creation of a 100,000-man "quick strike" force authorized by the Carter Administration last June. The force will be composed of units drawn from the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps which can be deployed anywhere in the world within 48 hours. The only place in the world where Carter Administration officials have intimated that such a force would intervene is the Gulf area and the Middle East. The U.S. is also planning on creation of a new fifth fleet to be permanently based in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf. In the words of U.S. Secretary of Defense Brown speaking before Congress last February: "We are bound to have a strategic stake in such places as the Persian Gulf and the Straits of Malacca."

The U.S. has been searching for a pretext to demonstrate its new interventionist option. When fighting broke out in North Yemen earlier this year, Carter invoked special emergency powers by-passing congressional approval and declared that the conflict threatened U.S. national security. Then the administration sent a hurried shipment of \$400 million worth of military equipment to North Yemen.

Simultaneously, the U.S. has been beefing up its military coordination with Saudi Arabia. Even Pentagon officials, in a special CBS broadcast last August, have admitted that the number of American "technicians" in Saudi Arabia has now reached over 20,000 and have played a direct planning role in such projects as the

construction of the multi-billion dollar King Khaled military training city. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is expected to supervise construction of a new \$500 million "strategic road" being built by the Saudis in Oman between Muscat and Salalah.

U.S. MOVES IN THE GULF

Recently the U.S. has been maneuvering to establish a permanent military foothold in the Gulf. All summer the U.S. has been stirring up fear about the possibilities for sabotage of oil tankers passing through the Strait of Hormuz. U.S. officials have been demanding guarantees from Gulf states for security of the Strait and have been pressing for a direct American military presence as the best insurance for oil cargoes destined for refineries owned by U.S. multinational corporations.

As early as last April, U.S. Senator Harry Byrd was sent on a special mission to the Gulf representing the Senate Armed Services Committee in order to assess funding of U.S. military projects. He later reported to Congress that: "Now with Egypt and Israel in the limelight perhaps it is time to shift some of the focus of our attention to the Persian Gulf nations." He especially stressed the possibility of U.S. military action: "The vulnerability of the Strait of Hormuz should... be of considerable concern since 40% of the free world's oil must transit that strait. Prince Sultan, the Saudi Defense Minister, said that the strait is critically important but is unprotected since the fall of Iran. He said rather emphatically that defense of the strait should be the responsibility of those nations which are so dependent on the oil which must transit the strait."

Two months ago the Carter Administration officials began warning of imminent guerilla attacks on oil tankers in the area. Implied in Administration statements was a link between security for the strait and failure of the Egyptian-Israeli "autonomy" talks. U.S. newscasters reported Administration officials' fears of Palestinian "terrorists" blowing up tankers to block the Strait in retaliation against the U.S. imposed treaty. As a matter of fact, not even an attempt at sabotage of a tanker has ever been reported. At the same time, Lloyds of London declared the area a war zone and upped their shipping insurance rates. The atmosphere was prepared for some kind of collective Western security system to be dictated to Gulf state leaders. The Sultanate of Oman was primed for the role of ensuring a direct U.S. military entrée into the area.

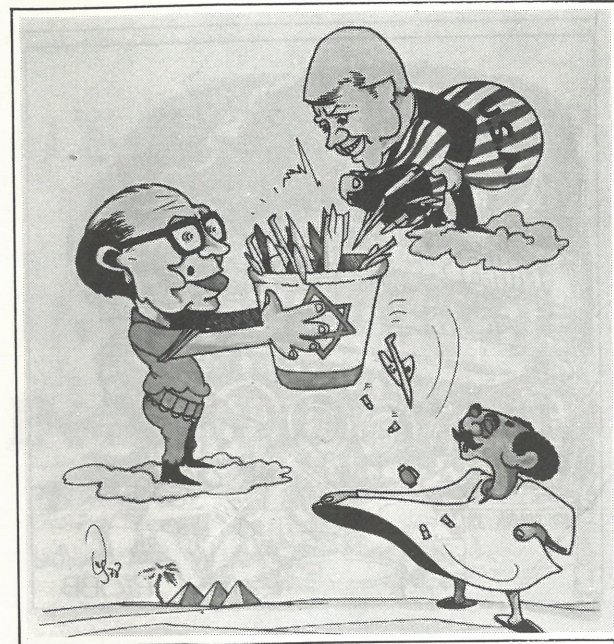
U.S. STEPPING UP MILITARY INTERFERENCE IN MIDDLE EAST

For implementation of its new military ambitions in the Gulf, the U.S. was able to secure assistance of its new regional client state — the Sadat regime. For his part, Sultan Qabous of Oman has long been plagued by a liberation war fought in Dhofar province by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman. Before the fall of the Shah, Iranian troops were sent to Dhofar in an attempt to crush the PFLO. This past spring, the Sadat regime eagerly replaced the Shah's army with over 5,000 Egyptian soldiers. But the Egyptian presence is only the first step in a much larger U.S. scheme.

The "Arab Press Service" reported in early October that currently 12 American military experts are visiting Oman to assess the Sultan's defense requirements. In May, Qabous received the first installment of a new American-manufactured weapons system which included artillery, anti-tank rockets and helicopters. The U.S. will now become Oman's main supplier of arms and in the initial period 100 million Saudi petro-dollars have been earmarked for the new U.S. weapons. In exchange, Qabous has been promoting a direct U.S. involvement in protection of the Strait of Hormuz. So far, this idea has been rejected by other Gulf states. However, rumors persist that Oman has already entered into an agreement with the U.S. on the future use of Masira island and other Omani areas by



Sadat receiving out-dated U.S. F-4 jet fighters



the U.S. Air Force and marine troops. Already the U.S. has limited use of a naval base in Bahrain for three ships. The U.S. plans to base an additional two ships at the port as part of its plans for a more overt military presence in the area.

ZIONISM STILL GETS THE BEST U.S. MILITARY DEAL

While U.S. imperialism is preparing for a direct military role in the Gulf, its heaviest military investment is still reserved for its traditional Zionist ally and its new-found puppet — the Sadat regime.

With each new Zionist aggression, Israel has cashed in on exorbitant increases in direct U.S. military grants and loans. Since the 1973 October War, Israel has received 53% of all arms deliveries to the entire region, whereas before the war it only received 30%. Needless to say, the bulk of arms transfers to Israel come from the U.S. and since 1973 direct U.S. grants and loans have averaged \$2 billion per year. After the most recent Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon this summer which killed hundreds of civilians in savage bombing raids, Israel will be rewarded again by an increase in U.S. grants to "supplement" the \$3 billion already allocated this year as part of the Camp David agreements and the treaty with Egypt.

Not satisfied with Israel acting alone in its aggressions against Lebanese sovereignty, the U.S. would like to undermine it from within. The CIA was an active conduit for U.S. weapons to Lebanese fascist forces during the 1975-77 civil war. Last year the U.S. Congress allocated a

portion of U.S. foreign military assistance funds for the reconstitution of the Lebanese Army. This month U.S. Secretary of State Vance pressed for UN action in southern Lebanon in which the joint Lebanese-Palestinian forces would be disarmed while a Lebanese Army dependent on U.S. weapons and advisors would play a major role.

SADAT PLAYS SECOND STRING IN U.S. GAME PLAN

Sadat's capitulation to the U.S. has not brought his army parity with his Zionist counterpart. In September, the Sadat regime pleaded with the Carter Administration for an increase in the \$1.5 billion in military credits allocated to it as pay-off for its signing of the treaty with Israel. Sadat traded in Egypt's military capability after the 1973 war when he cut off relations with the Soviet Union in exchange for hopes of becoming the region's most loyal American client. The Egyptian army is still largely equipped with out-dated Soviet designed weapons which are wasting away from lack of spare parts. Despite Sadat's eagerness to act as surrogate for American soldiers, as in Zaire in 1978 and now in Oman, some Carter Administration analysts doubt the ultimate ability of the Sadat regime to survive. Hence American military investments have been half of those pumped into Israel and actual deliveries have been slow in coming.

On October 6, the Sadat regime staged an elaborate military display to mark the sixth anniversary of the last Arab-Israeli war. As per agreement last summer, the Carter Administration contributed an early delivery of 12 F-4 Phantom jets for the parade and Egyptian pilots were given a crash course on how to fly the planes. Eventually Egypt will receive 40 Phantoms as part of the \$1.5 billion Camp David military credits extended by the U.S. Although Egypt's new military acquisitions are meager in comparison to Israel's multi-billion dollar arsenal, the Camp David "peace" process has brought with it the largest increase in U.S. military hardware to the region in modern history. For the Zionists, the increase in military capacity forbodes an increase in its aggression against the Palestinian and Arab peoples. With Sadat now in a tight alliance with Zionism, his regime's new U.S. arsenal will be blandished against those peoples in the Arab world and Africa struggling against U.S. imperialist domination.

At the October 6th Egyptian military display the only Arab dignitary to appear with Sadat on the reviewing stand was the Omani deputy prime minister for security and defense, Fahar bin Timur al-Said — a vivid symbol of Sadat's new regional role as second-cousin U.S. watchdog trailing just behind the Zionist state.

OCCUPATION DIARY

WEST BANK RISES AGAINST LAND "PURCHASE" ACT

On September 27, clashes took place between Bir Zeit students, villagers and Israeli soldiers following demonstrations rejecting the Israeli cabinet decision allowing the purchase of Arab-owned land. Students confronted Israeli soldiers with sticks and stones. A number of students and soldiers were injured. The demonstrators raised slogans condemning the occupation and supporting the PLO. Many of them were arrested. At the same time in Nablus, demonstrators attacked an Israeli army vehicle. In Lydd and Ramlah, pamphlets were distributed, calling for resistance to the occupation and expressing support for the PLO.

In related news, on October 7, the General Federation of Workers Unions in the West Bank issued a communique denouncing the new Israeli land purchase law in the occupied territories, saying that this law practically means the annexation of the occupied territories and the consolidation of the Zionist occupation of Palestine, and is a first step towards the "autonomy" conspiracy. The communique also rejected the Camp David agreements, and described the "autonomy" project as a deformed offspring of these agreements, which has been rejected by the Palestinian people, who are struggling for their right to self-determination and return, and for the establishment of their own independent state under the leadership of the PLO.

ISRAELI AUTHORITIES CLOSE MEDICAL CENTRES

In the last month, Israeli forces greatly increased the cost of hospital treatment and medical check-

OCCUPATION DIARY

ups. The price of medicine has also been raised more than two hundred percent, while the salary of Palestinian doctors is fifty percent less than that of Israeli doctors. On the average there is only one doctor to treat every ten thousand Palestinian citizens. In Nablus, the children's hospital has only eighty beds and the city does not have a single ophthalmologist. Some West Bank hospitals have been requisitioned and turned into headquarters for the Israeli military administration.

These measures are an integral part of Israeli policy which seeks to force Palestinians in the occupied territories to register in Israeli hospitals and medical centres, which are often beyond the means of these citizens. It is also an attempt to force these Palestinians to leave their land, thus making way for new settlements.

ISRAEL BARS PALESTINIAN NATIONAL FRONT AS "EXECUTIVE ARM" OF PLO

The Israeli military government in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip declared on October 10, the committee of the Palestinian National Front an illegal organization. It threatened committee members, prominent Palestinian leaders, with prosecution if they continued the activities. The committee was established shortly after the Camp David "peace" pact between Israel and Egypt, to coordinate local Palestinian resistance to the implementation of its "autonomy" terms. A military government spokesman said it had acted "as the executive arm of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in the occupied territories."

This new Israeli measure against the National Front constitutes one more attempt on the part of the authorities to impose the autonomy conspiracy on the occupied territories. The leadership of the National Front includes the Mayors of Nablus, Ramallah, Halhoul, the Palestinian Communist Organization and the President of the Palestinian Red Crescent in the Gaza Strip.



Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem

AL-KHATIB: AL-AQSA MOSQUE IN DANGER

In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Anba on October 1, Anwar al-Khatib, the former Mayor of Jerusalem, warned that the Dome of the al-Aqsa Mosque was in danger of destruction due to water leakage. Al-Khatib called on the Arab and Islamic states to take speedy action to protect the Aqsa Mosque.

ISRAELI MILITARY GOVERNORS TRY TO INTIMIDATE WEST BANK MAYORS

The Israeli Radio stated on October 9, that the Israeli military governors in the West Bank have warned the West Bank Mayors that approval of their requests for permission to leave the West Bank will be reconsidered in the near future. This warning has come as a reaction to statements, alleged to have been made by Hebron Mayor Fahd al-Qawasmeh while in the U.S.A., that Palestinian resistance operations inside the occupied territories will continue until the achievement of Palestinian national rights.

The Israeli authorities have also made known that they intend to try Karim Khalaf and Ibrahim al-Tawil, the Mayors of Ramallah and al-Bireh respectively, on charges of "attacking Israeli policemen." In-

formed sources added that the aim of this step is to dismiss the two Mayors from their official posts, as was the case two years ago with the Mayor of Beit Jala. The ultimate goal of the authorities is the removal of all prominent Palestinian nationalist figures opposing the implementation of the administrative autonomy plan in Gaza and the West Bank. The Mayor of Ramallah, Karim Khalaf commented on this Israeli decision to bring him and Tawil to court saying it constituted a step towards the removal of all Palestinian Mayors who reject the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land. He confirmed that the charges brought against him are false. The story of the alleged attack by the Mayors on Israeli policemen, had been brought up a year ago during the discussion of the confiscation of Arab land in Betunia and Ramallah, by the Israeli Supreme Court.

ISRAELI TERROR IN OCCUPIED GOLAN

According to Israeli newspaper reports of October 10, 1979, an Israeli military occupation force searched two Syrian villages in the occupied Golan Heights and arrested tens of villagers. The Israelis entered the villages of Masada and Majdal Shams, beat a number of villagers and searched many persons. The arrested villagers were taken to Israel.

DEMONSTRATIONS AND STRIKES AGAINST RACIST ISRAELI EDUCATION POLICY

Violent demonstrations took place October 7 in Bir Zeit in the occupied West Bank to protest against Zionist measures aimed at preventing Palestinian students from continuing their studies. The people and students of Bir Zeit closed the main roads with burning tyres to obstruct Israeli reinforcements which were rushed to the area to disperse the demonstrations. The demonstrators shouted slogans against the Israeli occupation and clashed with Israeli troops with sticks and stones. Many were injured on both sides. Following these disturbances, the Israeli authorities arrested numerous Palestinian citizens, surrounded the town and prevented foreign correspondents and Palestinian citizens from entering or leaving it.

Meanwhile, the two-week uprising in Ramallah is regaining momentum, with the Israeli authorities attempting to force Palestinians to leave their land by denying the greatest possible number of students the opportunity to continue their studies. Demonstrations in Ramallah were similar to those in Bir Zeit, with the same repressive practices by the Israeli authorities.

BOOK DEFICIENCY

According to reports from the occupied territories, many secondary schools are suffering from a deficiency in textbooks, despite the recurrent requests made by students to the Israeli educational authorities. It is worth mentioning that the first term exams are due to take place in two months time. This premeditated lack of textbooks is part of the Israeli authorities' policy aiming at reducing the education level among the Palestinian people. The authorities have already prevented the teaching of certain subjects which might raise the level of national consciousness and strengthen the ties of the Palestinian people with their land.

AL-NAJAH UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT BRIEFS UNESCO

After a visit to Paris, the President of al-Najah University in Nablus, Dr. Kayed Abdel Haq, stated in a press conference on October 1 that he informed UNESCO officials there on the economic blockade the Israeli authorities are



Israeli occupation forces try to quell Palestinian student riots in Ramallah

imposing against the Palestinian national university in Nablus. He said that these financial restrictions are part of Israel's policy to stunt the education of Palestinians in the occupied territories. Dr. Abdel Haq said that he briefed the UNESCO officials on the conditions and needs of the university, which will be attended by more than 2,200 students this year. Jerusalem newspapers mentioned that there have been collective resignations among teachers in the West Bank because their salaries are not enough to cover their basic needs, and because of constant Israeli pressure to make as many Palestinians as possible emigrate.

In related news, the villagers of Toba in Galilee in 48-occupied Palestine have threatened to stage a general strike in protest against their lamentable educational conditions.

Two hundred Arab students are currently forced to study in tin huts, which are excessively hot in summer and freezing in winter, and which lack any toilet facilities.

GENERAL STRIKE

Presidents of the Arab local Councils in Galilee, the Negev and the Triangle areas of Palestine, all occupied in 1948, have decided to set November 29 as the date for a general strike in all vital and educational institutions in the occupied territories as a protest against the racist education policy of the Israeli authorities. The date of the strike coincides with the Day of International Solidarity with the Palestinian People, established by the U.N. and observed by most countries of the world last year. November 29 is the date of the issuing of the U.N. resolution to partition Palestine in 1947.

The Mayors met in the village of Tar'an in Galilee on October 9, and demanded the retrieval of land belonging to the Islamic Awqaf which was confiscated by Israeli authorities.



ARMED RESISTANCE

INCREASED TENSION

Palestinian commandos carried out a total of twenty operations against enemy targets in occupied Palestine during September, eleven of which were admitted by the Israelis. This was one of the highest totals this year. Most of these operations were in the Jerusalem and Tel Aviv areas, with six in the former and six in the latter; none were launched from Lebanon or took place anywhere near the Lebanese border. These twenty attacks created such a state of tension amongst Israeli settlers that Begin's advisor on the operations of the Palestinian commandos called for the arming of all settlers wishing to enter East Jerusalem, or any other part of the occupied territories. Such an invitation is in harmony with the general atmosphere of daily violations of the most basic human rights of the Palestinian people of the occupied territories. The arbitrary arrests and long detention of Palestinian youths after each of these operations is part of this atmosphere, and aims at silencing the demands of the Palestinians for their rights. That such measures have failed in achieving their aims, in spite of the great facilities at the disposal of Israeli police and army in the occupied territories, is evident from Begin's advisor's recommendation, in which he also expected an escalation by Palestinian commandos of their operations deep inside Israel. Dayan's statement this month too, admitting an average of one Palestinian operation a day in Israel, exposes the failure of Israel's measures.

ENGINEERING UNIT DESTROYS MILITARY WAGON

No 168/79:

On September 30, a Palestinian special engineering unit planted a booby-trapped explosive charge on the railway between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, in the Ain Ghalim region near Jerusalem. At 6.00 am, the charge went off just as an explosives detector wagon carrying several Israeli soldiers was passing by. The explosion destroyed a large part of the railroad tracks and the wagon, killing and injuring all the soldiers. Traffic congestion built up along the line as Israeli security forces rushed to the site and combed it searching for other charges. Israeli patrols moreover arrested several Palestinian citizens for their alleged involvement in the operation. The unit returned safely to base. Israel admitted the operation, claiming that a goods train was derailed, with no injuries.

COMMANDO ATTACK IN JERUSALEM

No. 169/79:

At dawn on October 3, Palestinian commandos planted an explosive charge under the car of an officer of the Zionist security forces, while it was parked in the Jewish sector of occupied Jerusalem. The charge went off at 6 am, destroying the car and causing great material damage. The Israeli security forces were consequently rushed to the site of the operation and launched a search for other charges, while additional security

forces surrounded the area and arrested many Palestinian citizens on suspicion of their involvement in the operation. The commando unit returned safely to base.

ATTACKS ON MILITARY VEHICLES

No. 170/79:

On the morning of 4/10, the "martyr Ghazi Abu Mubarak" unit operating inside the occupied territories planted a highly explosive charge at a military bus station in Asqalan, north of Gaza. At 8.00 am on October 4 during the rush hour, the charge went off injuring several soldiers and destroying a huge part of the station. The Israeli security forces consequently closed off the site of the explosion and combed the area searching for other charges. At the same time, dozens of Palestinian citizens were arrested at check-points on suspicion of their involvement in the operation. The unit returned safely to base.

No. 171/79:

On the morning of October 4, special commando unit "A" operating inside the occupied territories planted a timed explosive charge under a military vehicle parked in front of the post office in Omar al-Mukhtar Street in Gaza. At 7.30 am, the charge was discovered by Israeli security forces combing the area. The street was immediately evacuated and explosives experts defused the charge.

EXPLOSION IN JERUSALEM

No. 172/79:

At the dawn of October 12, a Palestinian commando unit planted a timed explosive charge near Israeli troop concentrations near the former High Commissioner's headquarters in Jerusalem, north of the Talpiot suburb. At 6.00 am, the charge went off inflicting material losses and a number of casualties in the enemy ranks. Consequently, the Israeli security forces arrested several Palestinian citizens. The unit returned safely to base.

ISRAEL: THE ROT SETS IN

Israeli society today shows signs of demoralization and decay. Wherever Israelis turn they see their pet assumptions being overturned, formerly respected institutions racked by corruption and scandal, and an economy out of control.

It is their country's failing economy which most affects Israelis' daily lives. Israel's annual inflation rate is approaching 100 per cent this year, straining the ability of working class Israelis to make ends meet. In an expression of outrage about this situation, more than one million Israeli workers, about one-third of the country's population, staged a two-hour strike on August 13 to protest skyrocketing prices. There is no indication, however, that Israel's inflation rate will subside. The country's balance of payments deficit grew from \$2.5 billion in 1977 to \$3.4 billion in 1978, and is expected to reach \$4.5 billion this year. A growth in the balance of payments deficit on such a scale indicates Israel's inability to match her increasing imports, mainly of military hardware, by exporting more. Consequently Israel must continue borrowing heavily from banks, thus fuelling inflation, and must seek handouts from the United States to cover her expenses, which include a bloated military budget.

Despite the magnitude of Israel's economic crisis, however, the government of Prime Minister Menachem Begin has been unable to do anything about it. Wedded to outmoded laissez-faire economic doctrines, and committed to a militaristic policy of retaining occupied Arab lands and threatening neighboring Arab countries, all that Begin's government has been able to tell Israelis is to tighten their belts and keep on paying for the soaring expenses of the military apparatus.

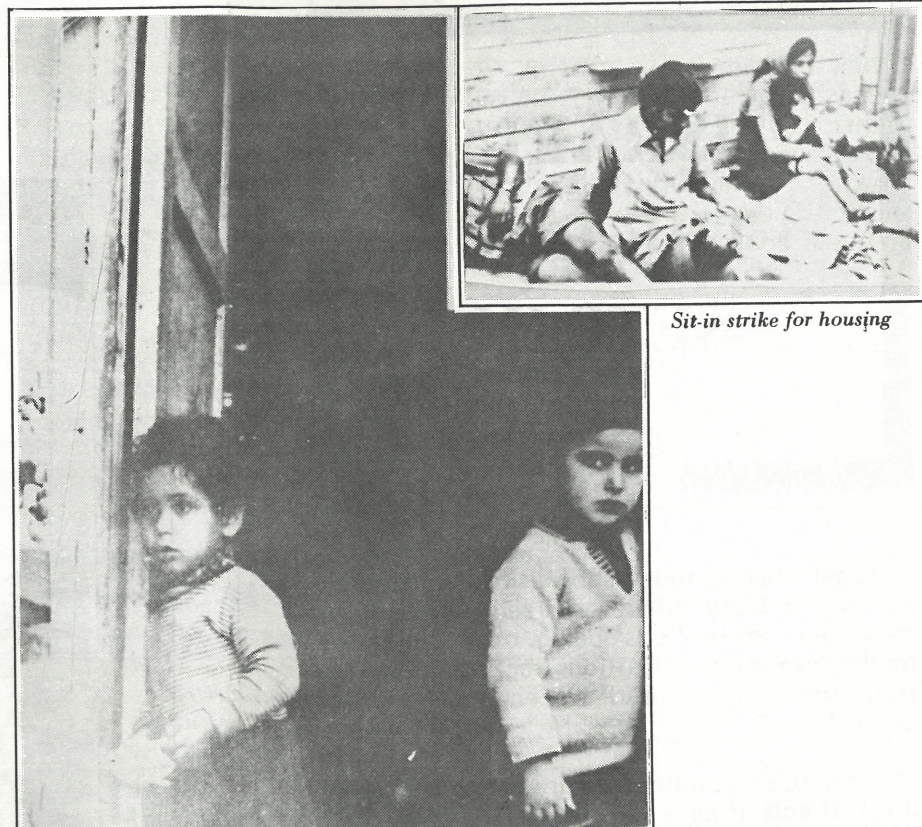
THE ARMY'S TARNISHED IMAGE

The army is one of Israel's most important



Israeli Army: corruption, crime, drugs

institutions, for the Zionist state's entire history has been one of imposing its will through military force on Palestinians and other Arabs whose territory the Israeli state covets. The Israeli army has been glorified in Zionist propaganda, and Israelis have been taught to see it as the embodiment of Israel's virtues. Arab victims of Israeli aggression have always known better, and defenseless civilians in Palestine, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria have had to flee before its murderous attacks which spare neither old people, women nor children. But now the army's reputation among Israelis is tarnishing. This process began with the army's poor showing in the early stages of the October 1973 war, and accelerated in the past year after a series of scandals and setbacks came to public attention. In June of this year the Israeli paper "Ma'ariv" reported that significant amounts of arms and ammunition had been stolen from army depots in the preceding months. The thefts, probably made at the behest of Israel's powerful underworld, could not have occurred without the connivance of military personnel. Another report which surfaced last year charged that there was widespread cruel treatment of young soldiers in training. The report spoke of at least one trainee who was driven to suicide as a result. In another scandal Yigal Laviv, one of Israel's best-known investigative reporters, has linked Israeli military intelligence officers with drug peddling. And earlier this year a scathing report



Children in Israeli slums



Sit-in strike for housing

by the state comptroller on the army's 1978 invasion and three-month occupation of South Lebanon shocked Israelis, who had been assured procedures were improved after the October 1973 war. The findings included 182 cases of soldiers prosecuted for looting in Lebanon. Because of lax discipline, mistakes and inefficiency, many units went into battle ill-prepared and suffered what the report termed "unnecessary" casualties.

THE PINTO AFFAIR

Israelis are presently debating the merits of the "Pinto affair" (see *Palestine*, No. 17 and 18, 1979), the case of an Israeli lieutenant, Daniel Pinto, convicted by an Israeli court of murdering four Lebanese civilians in cold blood after the Israeli army's occupation of South Lebanon. Lt. Pinto's light prison sentence (eight years) was reduced to two years by Israeli Chief of Staff Raphael Eytan. The murders and Gen. Eytan's flippant reaction to them have forced Israelis to face some unpleasant facts about their country's brutal treatment of Arabs. Cherished Israeli myths about the virtuousness of their army have been shattered, and with them a part of the positive self-image which Israelis held about themselves and their society. This feeling was summed up by Knesset member Meir Pa'il, who recently said, "The army is gradually sinking to the general level of society."

SOCIAL CONFLICT AND CRIME

Society itself is sinking fast. Israel's sick

economy has sharpened social divisions and encouraged the growth of crime and the spread of corruption. Israeli society has always been an unlikely mixture of peoples with little in common besides an allegiance (often nominal) to the Jewish faith and fears (encouraged by the Zionist leadership) of what might happen to them if they did not stick together to face "the Arab threat." Now the cracks are showing and can no longer be papered over. Tensions between Orthodox and secular Jews, and between Arab Jews and Western Jews, have been growing. There have been regular confrontations in Jerusalem in the last year between Orthodox Jews, some of whom are anti-Zionist, and secular Jews over matters dividing them. Arab Jews, inferior to Western Jews in social and economic status and therefore the first to feel the pinch of inflation, have grown increasingly restive and in August a group of Moroccan Jews announced that they would like to return to Morocco. In Israel, they said, they had lived in nothing but slums for 16 years. Young couples have held strikes and sit-ins to protest Israel's severe housing shortage; the government, meanwhile, is unable to implement its own housing programs, and last year built only 7000 of a planned 14,000 new housing units.

Meanwhile, organized crime is rife in Israel and a general erosion of law and order has eaten deep into Israeli society. An Israeli government report published last year said that the underworld has penetrated government and industry

and is reaping millions of dollars a year from theft, smuggling and drug traffic. The drug trade alone, the report said, is organized on a sophisticated scale that brings in an estimated \$65 million a year. The report said organized crime is only part of "a general malaise in Israeli society," and that general disregard of law in such fields as taxation and building regulations had "encroached on all parts of Israeli society."

An indication of how deep lawlessness has gone was provided two years ago when 18 Tel Aviv policemen, including an inspector, were arrested on suspicion of stealing valuables from crime scenes. The Israeli version of the Red Cross, the "Red Star of David" organization, has not been immune from this malaise. A recent investigation into the organization's ambulance service revealed severe corruption among its employees. Not only had money disappeared unaccountably, but whole ambulances sent from Zionist supporters in the United States could not be found anywhere.

ZIONISM PROLONGS THE DIFFICULTIES

In light of all this, it is not surprising that increasing numbers of Israelis are fed up and seeking to emigrate. Furthermore, nearly 80 per

cent of the Soviet Jews who arrive in Vienna officially "en route to Israel" do not in fact go there, but choose to settle down somewhere else instead, often Western Europe or North America. This is of great concern to Israeli leaders, whose obsession with "demographic security" is equalled only by South Africa's and underlines the racist nature of the Zionist state.

Israel's major political parties, beset by internal divisions, squabbles and personal rivalries, offer no solution to Israel's ills. The major parties' commitment to Zionism limits their options, making a radical restructuring of Israeli society under their auspices impossible. So long as Israel remains a Zionist state, it will be compelled to waste its people's limited resources in a costly and self-defeating attempt to occupy Palestine and militarily dominate the Arab East.

In the long run, would not Israeli Jews be better off living in equality with Palestinian Arabs in the democratic, secular Palestinian state sought by the PLO? Or will they continue wasting themselves in pursuit of Zionist day-dreams?



Tel-Aviv-Jaffa youngsters ask: "What's easier to build -- youth clubs, or rehabilitation centers for juvenile delinquency?"

ZIONISM IN PRACTICE

MOROCCAN JEWS QUIT ISRAEL

The Israeli newspaper "Davar" recently reported that 1,000 Moroccan Jews had returned to Morocco after their emigration to Israel. The article added that only 20,000 of the 200,000 which originally arrived in Israel remain there. The newspaper reported a Moroccan Jew saying that they are treated in Israel as third-class citizens, and that Western Jews discriminate against them without reason. He wondered why the Western Jews protested when the Jews returned to Morocco, where no hostile actions take place against Jews. Emigration from Israel takes place even though the Israeli authorities use all possible methods to prevent Jews from leaving the country. In a related item, five Jewish families living in the Yamit settlement, near Rafah in the occupied Gaza Strip, have expressed their intention to emigrate to the U.S.A. "Al-Hamishmar" had earlier reported that two other families settled in Yamit had sold their possessions and emigrated to the U.S.A. or Europe.

STRIKES

Inflation is expected to reach 100 percent this year in Israel. On October 9, the government faced an unprecedented series of pay strikes affecting public services. More than 200 state lawyers threatened to resign October 10, complaining that they were paid much less than private lawyers. But the government was reluctant to increase their wages, fearing that other public servants would demand the same treatment, finance ministry sources said.

Schoolteachers, post office engineers, mailmen, telephone clerks and hospital technicians are also threatening to go on strike for more pay next week. A five day-old lock-out at the Bank Leumi, which

handles nearly half of Israel's financial transactions, has caused a cash shortage and slowed down imports of raw materials. Problems in the transfer of government funds threatened to delay the pay cheques of municipal workers, who said they would walk out if they were not paid on time.

EMPLOYEES LOCKED OUT

Bank Leumi, Israel's largest, closed indefinitely on October 4, after a series of work stoppages by employees seeking 100 percent wage increases to offset Israel's inflation. Israel Radio said the government backed the bank management's decision to lock out the 9,500 workers. Acting Finance Minister Gideon Patt said there would be "no surrender" to the more than justified wage demands of the workers. Newspaper reports said employees of the bank, which has 13 billion dollars in assets, were seeking increases of 100 percent. Israel's inflation rate for 1979 is expected to

exceed 80 percent and perhaps approach 100 percent.

THE "REBIRTH PARTY"

A new ultra-nationalistic Israeli political party was formed on October 8. About 3,000 people attended the founding meeting of the Tehiya ("rebirth") Party. Main speakers included Knesset (parliament) members Geula Cohen and Moshe Shamir, who have already withdrawn from Prime Minister Menahem Begin's Likud alliance, Professor Yuval Ne'eman, the former president of Tel Aviv University who first proposed the new party, and Hanan Porat, leader of the Gush Emunim (faith bloc). Gush Emunim is expected to join the new party en bloc. The Tehiya Party openly calls for the suppression and eviction of the Palestinian Arab population and the annexation of more Arab territories including the West Bank and Gaza Strip.



38,000 DUNUMS CONFISCATED, 27 NEW SETTLEMENTS IN AUGUST-SEPTEMBER

During August and September 1979, Israeli authorities confiscated a total of 38,748 dunums of Palestinian land for the establishment of new Israeli settlements. Of these, 13,000 were confiscated in Bethlehem on September 28. Twenty-seven settlements were established during these two months in various areas of the occupied territories, while the Israeli Knesset issued a decree allocating half a billion Israeli pounds for the construction of eleven further settlements beyond the so-called green line, i.e. in the territories occupied since 1967.

The Israeli newspaper "Davar" reported that on October 2 the Israeli Cabinet decided to establish five new settlements in the West Bank and to expand five others. In related news, construction has begun on more than 2,500 dunums of land in Beit Lahye region, north of Gaza strip.

SQUATTING ANNEXATION

Members of Gush Emunim held a meeting on October 8 at Ofra settlement in Ramallah. They discussed means of expanding their settlements. On October 10, settlers broke through the fence surrounding their encampment at Kadumin, near Nablus. They built two makeshift houses and a children's playground in a Palestinian farmer's olive grove to protest government 'reticence' to expropriate Palestinian land for expansion of Jewish settlements. The squatters laid cinder block frames, while one settler patrolled the area with a loaded machine-gun. The settlers retreated behind the settlement fences after "gentle" prodding by Israeli army troops.

In an interview on Israel radio, Gush Emunim leader Elyakim Heatzani said his movement's objective was to force expropriation of 40,000 to 50,000 acres of West Bank land immediately. A Gush Emunim spokesperson said that



Nazareth residents
at voluntary
work in support of their
democratic municipal
administration

break-out demonstrations were planned at a score of West Bank settlements in the near future.

In related news at the beginning of this month, Zionist newspapers revealed that the Jericho region is to be a new settlement target. The Zionist government is studying the possibility of building five settlements in this region.

FINANCIAL PRESSURE ON ARAB MUNICIPALITIES

On October 3, the Arab Councils in Galilee threatened to strike in protest against the financial pressures being put on them to stop the execution of their projects for the improvement of the living conditions in these areas, especially the educational institutions. These institutions have been deliberately neglected by the Israeli authorities for years in an attempt to narrow the scope of the educational opportunities left for Palestinian youth, so as to encourage them to emigrate. The heads of Arab local Councils, in their meeting on October 2, condemned the Israeli policy of putting financial pressure on their councils, and said they will ask for financial aid from the Arab countries if the Israeli government continues with this policy. Meanwhile, the Mayor of Nazareth, Tawfiq Zayyad, announced that the local councils will stage a strike on October 15 if the Israeli financial policy towards them is not changed.

RESTRICTION ON WATER CONSUMPTION

Israeli authorities continued to impose restrictions on water consumption by Palestinian citizens in the West Bank, while around 200,000 Palestinian citizens in the Gaza Strip alone are currently facing severe water shortages, due to the escalation of Israeli water theft. The Israeli authorities are also continuing to place obstacles in the way of the activities of the Jerusalem Electricity Company, so as to make it appear incompetent, and supply an excuse for seizing it and integrating East Jerusalem into the Israeli electricity grid.

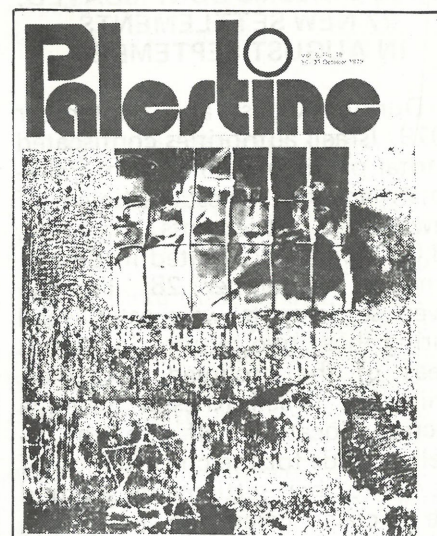
PALESTINIAN BEDOUINS DEFEND THEIR LAND

Palestinian Bedouins in the Negev area in '48 occupied Palestine have threatened to resort to new methods, other than protests and demonstrations, to defend their land and confront the Israeli plan for Judaization of the Negev. They said they would use force against the Israeli plan to deport them from their land and group them in five distant settlements.

32 PALESTINIAN FAMILIES EXPELLED

Israeli authorities expelled 32 Palestinian families from the village of Arab al-Mahjar, near Tel Aviv in 48 — occupied Palestine, on the pretext of setting up an electricity plant in that area. Agricultural lands of these families have also been confiscated.

PALESTINIAN PRISONERS OF WAR ON STRIKE IN ZIONIST JAILS



Extremely bad health conditions, lack of nourishment, lack of medical treatment, a ban on relatives' visits, physical and psychological torture: these are the reasons behind recent strike actions by Palestinian detainees inside Israeli prisons. On October 8, more than 5,000 Palestinians in Israeli prisons went on an indefinite hunger strike demanding an end to torture and to be treated as prisoners of war according to the Geneva Convention. Israeli occupation forces currently treat Palestinian detainees as common criminals legally and as less than human in actual treatment.

At the beginning of October, 200 Palestinian detainees sent a memorandum to the mayors in occupied Palestine in which they asked the mayors to pressure the Zionist authorities into introducing certain improvements in their conditions and into treating them as prisoners of war. The memorandum revealed that a large number of the detainees suffer from an acute deterioration of health and from numerous diseases. It added that the windows of prison cells are shut with tin sheets which block natural sunlight from entering the cells and cause prisoners to suffer from failing eyesight. The memorandum further complained about the quality of the food and unsanitary conditions in the jails. Prison authorities were also reported to be prohibiting the delivery of letters from the detainees' families.

As expected, the Zionist authorities made no moves toward meeting the demands of the striking Palestinian prisoners. On the contrary, Israeli guards attempted to terrorize prisoners into halting their strike actions. In Ashqalan and

Beersheba prisons in southern Palestine, Israeli guards hurled tear gas grenades into the cells of Palestinians. One prisoner died, 30 were hospitalized from the suffocating fumes and dozens of others suffered nausea from the lingering stench. In Shatta prison, guards opened fire on Palestinian prisoners on strike and wounded four: Abu Ali Shahine, Abu Ali Bseiso, Muhammad al-Ajrami and Ibrahim al-Qaq. Many striking prisoners were transferred to prisons for Israeli common criminals where guards instigated Jewish inmates to attack Palestinians.

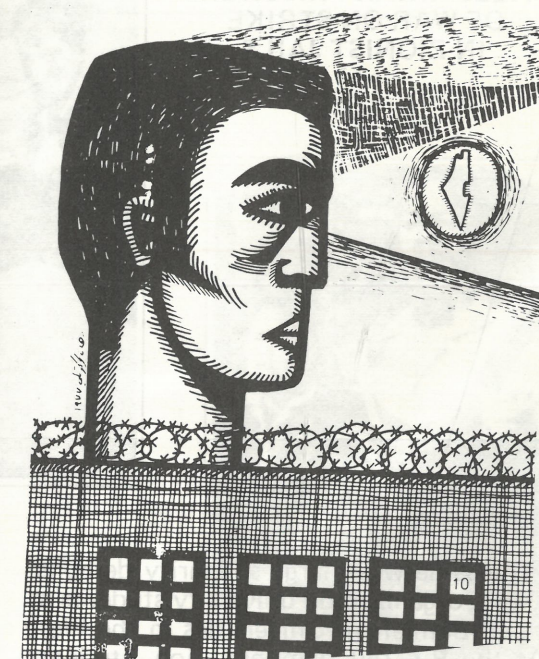
NEW TORTURE CASES

Three recent cases of torture of Palestinian detainees were announced in a press conference on October 7 by the progressive Jewish lawyer, Leah Tsemel. Ms. Tsemel stated that Muslim al-Daoudi, Azmi al-Atrash and Mahmoud Shehadeh had been involved in an altercation with an Israeli guard who opened fire on Palestinian Muslim prisoners praying in a prison yard during the feast of Ramadan. After the incident, Israeli guards brutalized the three prisoners. Ms. Tsemel reported that prison authorities refused to transfer al-Daoudi and al-Atrash to a hospital for medical treatment. Al-Atrash has gone blind from the attack and is suffering partial paralysis. Al-Daoudi suffered a severe bleeding ulcer after his torture session. Shehadeh had been repeatedly tortured in the past, resulting in several heart attacks and a surgical operation to remove his damaged spleen which left him close to death. Shehadeh is still being held in solitary confinement without any medication while he remains in terrible pain from his most recent brutalization.

CAMPAIGN IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PRISONERS

The occupied territories witnessed large scale demonstrations in support of striking prisoners. Palestinians in the occupied territories declared October 8 as a day of solidarity with Palestinian prisoners. As the day began hundreds of Palestinian women assembled in front of the International Red Cross (IRC) offices in Jerusalem to protest the severe conditions faced by Palestinians in the Zionist prisons. The women demanded that the prisoners be treated more humanely and in accordance with international conventions. The Director of the Red Cross later in the day issued a statement expressing his intention to defend prisoners' rights, but it has been Israeli practice in the past to limit the access of the IRC to conduct thorough investigations inside the prisons. Especially during the initial detention stage, the Zionist jailors prevent both IRC officials and lawyers from visiting detainees — sometimes for up to 40 days or longer. It is during this initial detention period when most torture occurs.

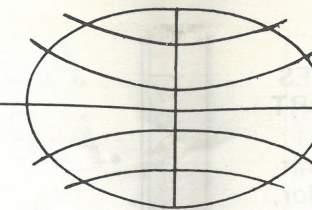
Solidarity demonstrations continued throughout the week. On October 10, wives of Palestinian prisoners in Beersheba prison began a



hunger strike outside the IRC offices. The women revealed that in Beersheba prison one prisoner had recently died from beatings inflicted during an interrogation session by Israeli

PALESTINIAN PRISONERS' LIVES IN DANGER

	Name	Prison	Sentence	Health Situation
1.	Diab Duweik	Ashkelon	Life	Partial paralysis & stomach ulcers.
2.	Tireze Halaseh	Nevi Terza	Life	Blood inflammation, Ship disc, Ulcers.
3.	Yosef Edilbi	Ramleh	Life	Half paralyzed hand with ailments. Inflammations in the leg veins with tubers and pains that hinder him from walking.
4.	Bader Da'ana	Ramleh	20 years	Most of the time in lunatic hospitals. Treatment was bad and of harmful effect.
5.	Mohammed Al Obeydi	Ramleh	15 years	Pains and inflammation in tunicals that effects his health situation, ulcers, bad sight and piles.
6.	Jaser Balawneh	Beir Sheva	Life	Nervous collapse affected his brain.
7.	Aref Al-Khatib	Ramallah	Administrative	Heart Attacks, Hysteria (60 years old).
8.	Abderahman Hasan	Hebron	8 years	Lost of eye sight.
9.	Hasan Abed Mohammed Dahshan			A hand and legs were amputated other sicknesses.
10.	Azmi Al-Atrash	Tulkarm		Lost of eye sight, partial paralysis in back bone.
11.	Mosallam Addawudi	Tulkarm		Ulcers in the stomach as a direct result for physical and psychological torture.



PALESTINIAN PRISONERS OF WAR ON STRIKE IN ZIONIST JAILS



guards. The same week large solidarity demonstrations were organized by university students at Bir Zeit and Bethlehem Universities in the West Bank. At the Bir Zeit demonstration, students clashed with Israeli soldiers trying to break up the protest and 18 students were arrested.

The October 8 solidarity day was marked outside the occupied territories as well. Palestinian popular organizations and unions in Lebanon and Syria sent messages of protest to UN Secretary General Waldheim and to the International Red Cross. The letters echoed the demands expressed by the striking Palestinian prisoners and additionally called for the release of all administrative detainees (those held without trial or charges) and release of all Palestinian prisoners whose health has deteriorated to the extent that their lives are in danger. Another cable was sent to Dr. Kurt Waldheim on October 14 by the Jordanian Women's Union, specifically addressing the particular conditions faced by Palestinian women detained in Israeli jails and expressing solidarity with the Palestinian women imprisoned.

DETAINEES SEND LETTER TO CHAIRMAN ARAFAT

Palestinian detainees in al-Ramleh prison in the occupied territories sent a letter to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat on October 9. The letter affirmed the prisoners' steadfastness in the face of the brutality of their Zionist jailors. The detainees renewed their commitment to Palestinian armed struggle and stressed their belief in the inevitable victory of the Palestinian people under the leadership of PLO. They rejected the Camp David pact, describing it as an attempt to protect imperialist interests in the region. They

moreover called for further unity among all Palestinian national personalities and all Arab liberation forces, and pledged to carry on their struggle until victory.

COMMITTEE FOR DEFENSE OF PALESTINIAN PRISONERS

One recently deported Palestinian prisoner, Salah al-Saidani, held a press conference in Beirut on October 11 in conjunction with the Committee for the Defense of Palestinian Prisoners and Detainees in Israeli Jails. Militant al-Saidani recounted the brutal conditions faced by Palestinian political prisoners and specifically detailed the cases of 11 prisoners inside Zionist jails who are currently in desperate need of medical attention. (See box on this page.) Al-Saidani charged that torture persists against Palestinian prisoners including children under 14 years old. He repeated charges that the Israelis refuse to treat ill prisoners, prevent access of international investigative committees and refuse to release prisoners threatened by death or by permanent physical handicaps resulting from their exposure to serious diseases. He stated that 27 Palestinian prisoners are currently being held under administrative detention without charge or trial.

More and more Palestinians are being arrested and sentenced inside the occupied territories. More and more Palestinians are suffering under extremely harsh conditions inside the thirteen Israeli jails in occupied Palestine. But the armed struggle goes on while our people in the occupied territories face the Zionists with faith in the Palestinian revolution and belief in the coming victory of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO.

SOUTH AFRICA EXPANDS MILITARY PRESENCE IN NAMIBIA

The racist regime in Pretoria over the past few days has expanded its military presence in illegally occupied Namibia in order to prepare fresh attacks against the People's Republic of Angola. According to a SWAPO statement published October 4, the racists have transferred additional Mirage, Impala, Canberra and Buccaneer warplanes to Grootfontein, Rundu and Katima Mulilo bases. Round-the-clock reconnaissance flights over Angola's southern provinces have been stepped up. Ground troops with long-range artillery which arrived at Walvis Bay by sea have meanwhile been transported by rail to central and northern Namibia.

A.N.C.: "WE ARE NOT FIGHTING TO SHARE A PARK BENCH"

Mobilising the people and intensifying the armed struggle against the racist regime in South Africa are considered urgent tasks of his liberation organisation, declared Anthony Le Clerc Mongalo, permanent representative of the African National Congress of South Africa in the German Democratic Republic. In an interview with ADN on October 9 concerning the international day of solidarity with the political prisoners in South Africa, he said, "Talk of reforms by Botha is just a manoeuvre to hoodwink world public opinion and draw it in favour of the South African regime at a time when the United Nations General Assembly will be considering economic sanctions against South Africa."

The ANC rejected such reforms which, according to Mongalo, had the ultimate objective "to isolate, weaken and destroy the vanguard leadership of the liberation movement of South Africa, the ANC."

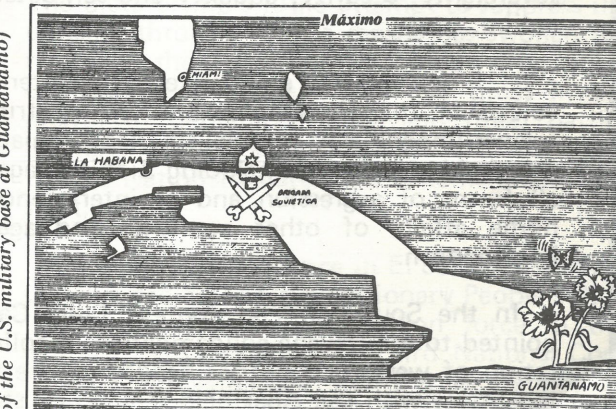
"The ANC is not fighting for reforms, we are not fighting in order that a black man can share a bench in a park with a white man, or for the use of the some entrances to railway stations," the ANC representative said, adding: "We are fighting for the liberation of our country as a whole from a fascist and exploitative system, for the creation of a truly independent and democratic South Africa, in which all the people, both black and white, will fully exercise their right to shape their own destinies".



For the sake
of apartheid:
Soweto massacre

CUBA AND THE U.S. ELECTORAL PROCESS

Britain's "Guardian" newspaper on October 2 indicated that the so-called Cuban crisis is "the by-product of two senators, Stone and Church, to get re-elected bundled with a scheme thought up somewhere in the American Administration to embarrass Castro during the recent non-aligned summit conference in Havana.... Artificial it may be, but it is difficult to believe that it will be closed. Cuba is too neuralgic an issue for the US. The Americans once owned Cuba, just as they once owned Nicaragua."



(By the Spanish newspaper "El País", reminding of the U.S. military base at Guantánamo)

U.S. portrait of "Cuban crisis"

COMMUNIST PARTY OF EL SALVADOR DENOUNCES ISRAELI MILITARY SUPPORT FOR DICTATORSHIP

The general secretary of the central committee of the communist party of El Salvador, Schafik Jorge Handal, has denounced Israeli military support for the dictatorial regime. He stated at a press conference on October 9 that Salvadorean armed forces are being trained in Israel, and Israeli military advisers are in El Salvador to reorganize the general staff of the armed forces.

Mr. Handal accused the Romero dictatorship of having murdered 500 people since May this year. Over 300 patriots have disappeared without a trace. He added that members of Somoza's National Guard are also being trained in El Salvador by Israeli military personnel and prepared for an invasion of Nicaragua. In addition, Somoza's mercenaries are to be used to suppress the struggle of Salvadorean patriots.

PRESIDENT CASTRO: PEACE HAS TO EMBRACE ALL TERRITORIES AND PEOPLE

It was of paramount importance for the Non-Aligned States that peace be preserved. Peace is indivisible, it had to embrace all territories and people, Cuban head of state and government Fidel Castro told the 34th U.N. General Assembly session. Speaking in the general debate in his capacity as chairman of the coordinating bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, Fidel Castro declared resolutely that "the principle of peaceful coexistence has to be the cornerstone of international relations" and the basis for strengthening international peace and security as well as reduction of tensions. This basic principle incorporated simultaneously the right of colonially oppressed peoples to self-determination, independence and sovereignty, he said. The Non-Aligned were associated by their determination to defend cooperation among their states, free national and social development, sovereignty, security, equality and self-determination.

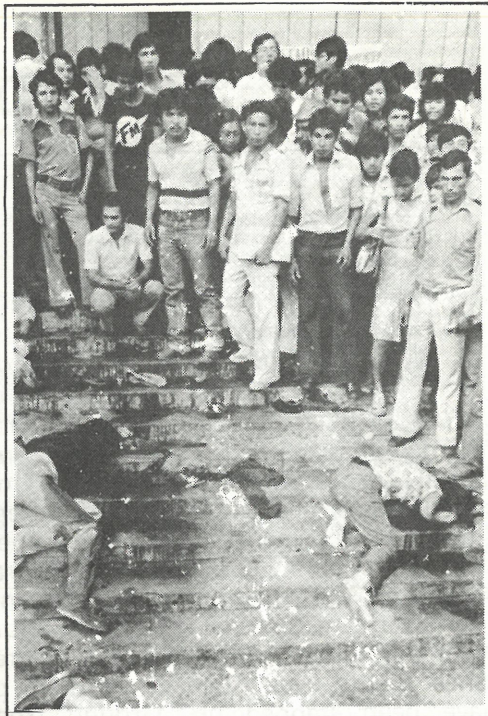
Fidel Castro emphasized the intention voiced in the Havana declaration to struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, apartheid and racism including Zionism, against all forms of aggression and of interference in home affairs of other countries and against hegemonism.

In the South African context Fidel Castro pointed to the Havana condemnation of collaboration of western countries headed by the United States with the Apartheid regime. He stated

that in contrast to this the socialist states, Scandinavian and other countries were supporting the struggle of the national liberation movements, especially that of the Namibian people under SWAPO leadership and that of Zimbabwe with the Patriotic Front in the vanguard. The London conference can be successful only if its results correspond to the wishes of the Zimbabwean people who are fighting for their liberation. On behalf of the Non-Aligned countries Fidel Castro emphasized the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and establishment of an independent state.

On behalf of the Non-Aligned, the speaker welcomed the victory of the Sandinista Liberation Front in Nicaragua and expressed solidarity with the struggle of the People of Puerto Rico for self-determination and independence. Cuba was thankful that the participants in the summit condemned the U.S. military base of Guantanamo on Cuban soil. Mr. Castro emphasized that Cuba would remain true to the principles of international solidarity. Concerning the attitude of the socialist states towards the economic problems of the non-Aligned, Mr. Castro said, "The socialist countries did not participate in the plunder of the world, and they are not responsible for the phenomenon of underdevelopment. But, even so, because of the nature of their social system, in which international solidarity is a promise, they understand and assume the obligation of helping to overcome it." Contrasting successes of the socialist states with the ever-increasing crisis of capitalism, Fidel Castro said, "The prospect of a world without capitalism is not too frightening to us revolutionaries".

40 opponents of the dictatorship were massacred in early May while demonstrating in front of San Salvador Cathedral for the release of political prisoners



LATIN AMERICA CONFRONTS U.S.A.

The era when U.S. Marines would occupy parts of Latin America to secure the flow of bananas to the US seems to have ended in the 1960's. This change was mainly due to the fact that U.S. multinationals formed corporate relationships with military dictatorships or other types of oppressive regimes which they put in power in one way or another.

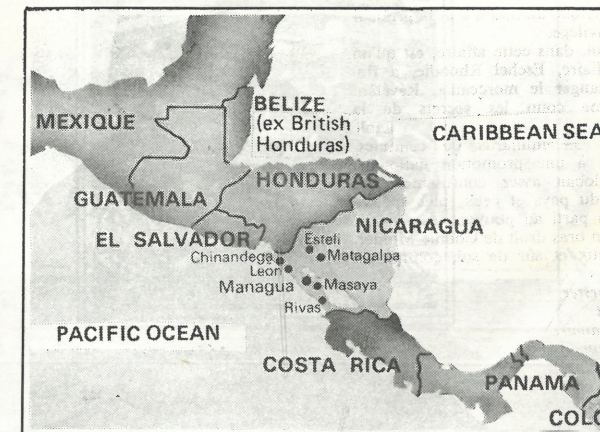
The greed of U.S.-based multinationals has caused a tremendous expansion of corporate business activity throughout Latin America. This process has resulted in the enlargement of the indigenous working class. This labor force, due to its alienation, its impoverishment and its virtual non-participation in state political affairs, has evolved into a conscious, dynamic force determined to change the oppressive and exploitative order.

The workforce of Latin America, together with other oppressed and progressive nationalist forces, has resorted to the only means of struggle possible to secure its rights: armed rebellion. The Chilean example has taught its lessons about "free" elections where U.S. interests are entangled with those of local dictators. The 1959 success of the Cuban revolution against the Batista dictatorship has offered a model to follow. Furthermore, the weaknesses of isolated armed struggle have been illuminated by the fate of the National Liberation Army of Che Guevara in Bolivia. The Sandinista National Liberation Front of Nicaragua drew appropriate conclusions from both examples and thus defeated the Somoza dictatorship and its U.S. multinational partners.

THE AWAKENING OF THE "BANANA REPUBLICS"

Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, christened "banana republics" by the U.S. media, have been rocked by the fall of the 43 year-old Somoza dictatorship. The "stability" of Central America, which U.S. investors used to boast about after their last 1954 CIA-sponsored overthrow of the Guzman government of Guatemala, has been shattered.

According to the Mexican newspaper "El Dia" in its September 25 edition, U.S. multinationals possess 40 per cent of the agricultural land, 75 per cent of the mines, half of all transport, two-thirds of the industry, more than half of the bank capital and 60 per cent of trade and services in Central America. Conservative



estimates figure that every dollar invested in Central America makes a three-dollar profit. Of course, this profit is extracted from the population with the help of the oppressive machinery of the state, the army.

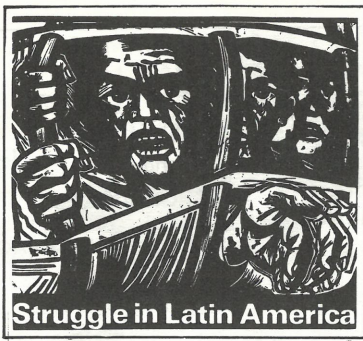
The net social result of such exploitation, to quote United Nations figures, is that the peoples of Central America have become the most destitute in the world. 75 per cent of the peasants have no land and 35 per cent of the able-bodied people are unemployed. Moreover seven out of ten Central Americans are hungry and undernourished, a mere 750 children out of 1000 reach the age of five, and three-quarters of the population are illiterate.

GROWING RESISTANCE

Naturally enough the peoples of Central America have stepped up revolutionary activity to do away with their unbearable socio-economic conditions. The Sandinista victory in Nicaragua has shown them that a combination of armed rebellion, a mass-based opposition movement and international support can topple even the most entrenched dictatorship.

In El Salvador, Gen. Romero's dictatorship and its US patrons are confronted by a militant combination of workers, peasants and students. The dictatorship's futile attempt to suppress the uprising through violent means has swollen the ranks of the revolutionary groups. The presidential palace was attacked five times in the month of September alone and street battles between revolutionaries and the dictator's US-trained National Guard have become a common sight.

The popular resistance in El Salvador is being spearheaded by the Revolutionary People's Bloc (RPB), the broadest opposition force in the country. After holding its Third National Congress in mid-September, the RPB has stepped up revolutionary violence to attain the wishes of the oppressed majority of El Salvadorians.



Guatemalan workers
demonstrating
for trade union rights

FRIGHTENED DICTATORS

The uprising in El Salvador has thrown Guatemala's military chiefs into disarray since they consider El Salvador under Romero their first line of defense. In anticipation of a popular upheaval the Guatemalan dictators have intensified their systematic liquidation of workers and other revolutionaries. This fascistic policy has reached such an extent that even the International Commission of Jurists and Amnesty International have both issued devastating condemnations of the Guatemalan dictatorship.

Opposition groups in Guatemala, like the Guerilla Army of the Poor, are reported to be reorganizing in the countryside, and a link with urban workers is certain to develop soon.

Costa Rica and Honduras are reported to be relatively "stable". Costa Rica's non-military regime is faced with rising labor militancy and has asked the U.S. government to increase economic aid. In Honduras the military dictatorship fears the repercussions of upheavals in neighboring countries and the discontent caused by impoverishment of the local population. Consequently they have resorted to the usual delaying tactics of promising "free elections" soon, supposedly to return the country to civilian rule.

MEXICO AND PANAMA

Two other Central American countries, Mexico and Panama, have also been suffering from U.S. imperialist exploitation and domination for generations. But unlike most of their Latin American counterparts they have drawn the attention of the U.S. public. This is due to Mexico's discovery of huge oil reserves and Panama's growing resentment of U.S. occupation of Panama's strategic canal.



Mexico, which is known to have more than 100 billion barrels of oil and gas underground, has attracted the U.S. administration's attention to the extent that President Carter has had to meet the Mexican president, Jose Lopez Portillo, three times in just a few months — the first time any U.S. president has had to do such a thing.

In their most recent meeting the two leaders discussed energy, trade and migrant worker matters. But the U.S. administration's insistence on getting the lion's share of Mexico's gas and oil has blocked any comprehensive agreement. Lopez's demand for the U.S. to lift trade restrictions to give Mexico access to U.S. markets has been turned down. Moreover the fate of the two million Mexican workers who sell their labor very cheaply in the U.S. remains uncertain.

U.S. threats still bar Mexico from being a member of OPEC and the Non-Aligned Movement, which would give it room to bargain to improve the living conditions of its impoverished people. Mexicans, with an unemployment rate of 19 per cent and a population growth rate of 2.8 per cent, face a dim future.

In Panama the U.S.-owned Panama Canal Co., which has been running the waterway since its opening in 1914, has recently been taken over by a U.S.-Panamanian Commission to give the impression of U.S. withdrawal. According to the agreement which resulted in the "transfer," the U.S. will own 45 per cent of the Commission rights, and until the year 2000 the U.S. will maintain its military presence there. Even in the year 2000, however, the U.S. will have the "right" to put the canal under military control "in case of a threat to the security of the canal." In return, the Panamanian government has been allowed to fly a 500 square-meter Panamanian flag over the canal zone in place of the U.S. flag.

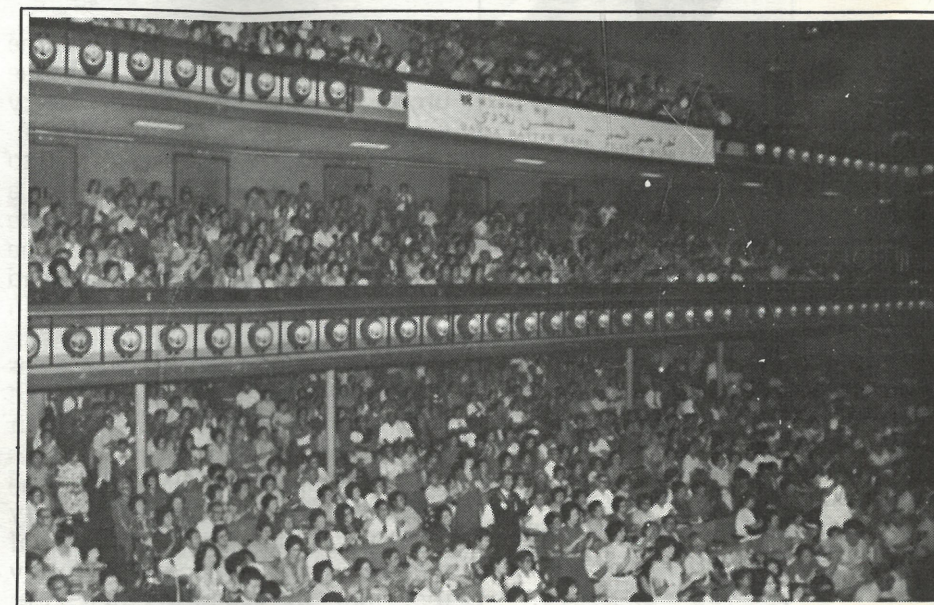
SOLIDARITY

TUNISIAN-PALESTINIAN MEDICAL COMMITTEE MEETS

The Palestinian-Tunisian Medical Committee held a meeting in Tunis in early October to discuss means of promoting bilateral relations between the Tunisian and Palestinian Red Crescent organisations. The meeting was attended by Hakam Bal'awi, the PLO representative in Tunisia.

EUROPEAN YOUTH BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH PALESTINIAN PLIGHT

The Middle East Council of Churches in conjunction with the Ecumenical Youth Council of Europe sponsored a special seminar for young people in Agape, Italy from September 16-23. The aim of the week-long gathering was to acquaint European young people with the social, cultural, religious and political conditions of the Middle East as well as to express the solidarity existing between the youth of both regions. Church representatives came from both regions: Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Egypt from the Middle East and East and West Germany, Finland, Sweden, France from Europe. A special panel was presented by Palestinians from the occupied West Bank which stressed repression in daily life and the situation of church institutions under Israeli occupation. At the end of the seminar, the participants called for the implementation of the national rights of the Palestinian people led by the PLO, including the right to create an independent Palestinian state.



Solidarity festival in Tokyo

PALESTINIAN SOLIDARITY EXHIBITION IN JAPAN

A Palestinian exhibition of posters paintings and photos was displayed recently at the Kabuki Theatre in Tokyo, in connexion with the celebration of a Muslim-Palestinian Solidarity Day on August 24, 1979. 5,000 Japanese supporters had attended the celebration, and Fathi Abdul Hamid received donations of 1,034,200 Yen for Palestinian children.

11TH CONGRESS OF PALESTINIAN-ARAB FUND MEETS IN U.S.

The 11th Congress of the Palestinian-Arab Fund met in San Diego, California between September 21 and 23. Afterwards in a cable addressed to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, the Congress expressed pride in the work of the resistance and the struggle of the Palestinian people. In resolutions passed during the course of the 3-day meeting, the Congress recognised the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and confirm-

ed its commitment to the political programmes of the PLO. It saluted the resistance of the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories in confronting the imperialist schemes hatched at Camp David and the so-called "administrative" autonomy plan. The Congress praised the cohesion shown by the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in their just struggle against Israeli aggression in Lebanon and against maneuvers aimed at destroying Lebanon's unity as well as its Arab character. The Congress expressed the full support of Palestinians residing in the U.S. for the Palestinian National Congress and proposed increased action in support of Palestinian rights on the American stage. Finally, the Congress praised political forces in the United States which support Palestinian rights and especially welcomed the supportive stance taken by Black Americans.

U.S. CHURCHES FOR CONTACTS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND PLO

At the end of September, the Executive Committee of the U.S.

SOLIDARITY



National Council of Churches for the first time called on the U.S. government to open contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organization. The Executive Committee supported efforts to challenge "the United States and Israel to desist from their no-talk policy with the PLO." The Committee statement continued: "We affirm the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and a national unity." The Council represents 32 Protestant churches and Orthodox communions whose members number more than 40 million.

CHRISTIANS IN GDR SUPPORT PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

The Mideast Commission of the German Democratic Republic's Committee of Christian Peace ended a two-day conference September 25. Chairperson Professor Heinrich Fink issued a press statement afterwards which declared that: "The Palestinian people in their just struggle can rely on the support of many people of Christian belief in the German Democratic Republic. There can be no stable peace in the Middle East without implementation of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians to self-determination and to establishment of a state of their own." The conference included theologians and dignitaries. The committee has non-governmental status with the United Nations. The participants unanimously condemned the Camp David agreements, called for Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and affirmed that any negotiations on settling the Middle East problem must include the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

FRENCH-ARAB SOLIDARITY LEAGUE CALLS FOR PLO INVITATION

At the beginning of October, the French-Arab Solidarity League urged French President Valéry Giscard D'Estaing to officially invite PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to Paris. The League said that such a step would serve the cause of peace and justice in the Middle East. The League said that a permanent and just peace cannot be established in the Middle East without the participation of the PLO, in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and without the total withdrawal of Israel forces from the occupied territories. The League also stressed the necessity of realising the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, especially the right to establish their own independent state in Palestine, and the right to have Jerusalem as the capital of this state. The League rejected Zionist ideology, anti-semitism, and all forms of racial discrimination, adding that Israel constantly tries to confuse anti-Zionism with anti-semitism.

IRANIAN SOLIDARITY

On October 10, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat received a cable of solidarity from the Unified Peace Committee in Iran. The cable confirmed that the PLO, led by Arafat, carries the banner of struggle in the confrontation of all imperialist, Zionist and reactionary conspiracies in the area. The cable also saluted the attempts to broaden relations between the PLO and the Iranian Revolution in their common fight against imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

JANUARY 1: INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PALESTINIAN PRESS

The International Symposium of Journalists met in the Bulgarian capital of Sofia from October 7-11 and designated January 1 as an



Graphic by Burhan Karkutli

International Day for the Palestinian Press. Representatives of sixteen national chapters of the organisation were in attendance as well as representatives of the Arab Journalists' Union and the General Union of Palestinian Writers and Journalists. The Symposium issued a political statement stressing that it is the task of progressive and democratic journalists to defend the national rights of the Palestinian people and to clarify the dangers of the Camp David process. The participants denounced the continuous Israeli aggression against south Lebanon and greeted the steadfastness of the Lebanese National Movement. The Symposium participants also expressed their solidarity with democratic Egyptian journalists. Committees formed during the Symposium presented a number of suggestions, including: organising similar meetings in socialist countries on specific problems related to the Palestine cause; publishing the best works by international journalists on the Palestine cause; concluding bilateral accords of friendship and solidarity between the members of the International Organisation of Journalists and the General Union of Palestinian Writers and Journalists.

ROOTED IN THEIR PEOPLE'S RESISTANCE

PALESTINIAN ARTISTS UNDER OCCUPATION:



Nabil Anani: "Palestinian Village"

It might happen in Jerusalem, in Nablus, Hebron, Ramallah or in any town in the Palestinian territories under Israeli military occupation since 1967, or even in Nazareth in the 1948-occupied Northern Galilee. The scene is very familiar: An Israeli armored troop carrier stands in front of a municipality building. Israeli troops are cordoning the entrance and questioning scores of Arab Palestinians. Material is seized; some people are taken away for interrogation.

This, however, is not, as one may guess, the scene of yet another daring operation carried out by Palestinian commandos. Surrounded by Israeli "security" forces is a peaceful gathering of people who came to see some dozens of paintings 'accidentally' brought together in the municipality's library room: an art exhibition in occupied Palestine.

ZIONIST ATTEMPTS TO DENY PALESTINIAN CULTURE

It has always been and continues to be an essential part of the strategy of Zionist colonialism to deny the very existence of Palestinian culture, for three basic reasons: first, to break the backbone of the national identity and cultural coherence of the Arab people of Palestine as developed throughout the milleniums of its history, its cultivation of the land, and its symbiosis with its homeland. Secondly, to try to make the world believe that there is no such thing as the national culture of 4 million people. Thirdly, to replace the genuine Palestinian culture with the hoax of a Western-based "Israeli culture" with "Arabesque" ingredients which, as a matter of fact, have simply been stolen from the Palestinian people.

ROOTED IN THEIR PEOPLE'S RESISTANCE

In all Palestine under occupation, even the word "Palestinian" has been suppressed for a long time by the aggressors. Today, the Palestinian reality and "fact" no longer can be denied even by the most obdurate Zionists. But the words "Palestinian culture" or "Palestinian art" and "Palestinian artists" still remain prohibited. Several attempts by the artists of our people in the occupied territories to form a "Union of Palestinian Artists" have been frustrated by the Military Governors or even thwarted by force. Only labels like "Plastic Arts from the West Bank and Gaza", or "Painters from the Galilee" may pass.

What applies to plastic arts and to the situation of the Palestinian artists in the occupied territories, is of course exemplary for the situation of Palestinian culture under occupation in general. Palestinian teachers, writers and intellectual and cultural activists face the same situation of Zionist repression, and must wage a never-ending fight for the assertion of their identity and for the identity of their entire people.

AFTER THE CAMP DAVID 'PEACE': REPRESSION ESCALATING

The Zionist military occupation tries many direct and indirect methods, including intimidation, force, manipulation and even bribery, to control and if possible to liquidate any cultural resistance. As a matter of fact, many of these methods applied today by the Zionists recall the various methods developed by German Nazism to neutralize and eliminate any upsurge of literary, artistic or intellectual resistance.

According to recent reports from the occupied territories, repression against Palestinian artists has also significantly increased since the conclusion of the US-sponsored Camp David plot by the self-appointed masters of the destiny of the Palestinian people.

To give an example, since the Camp David "peace" agreement mayors and other municipality officials of the towns in the occupied West Bank have been prohibited from attending any inauguration of exhibitions of Palestinian paintings or other art works, by orders issued by the Israeli Military Governor. Likewise, a recent project organized by artists to send a traveling art exhibition through villages in the occupied West Bank was thwarted by the military authorities, who gave restraining orders to the leaders of the respective villages.

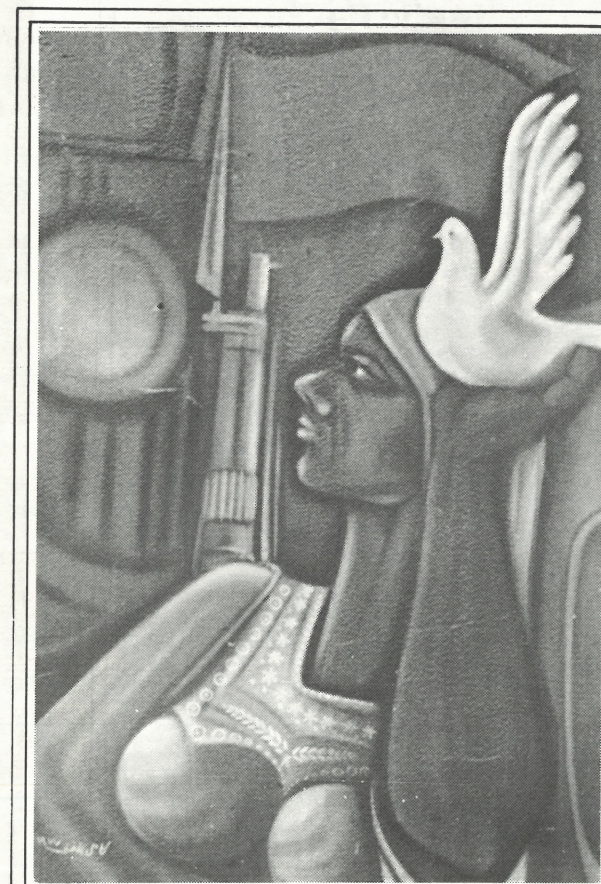
Zionist repression towards Palestinian art shows various faces. After the 1967 aggression the Israeli occupation authorities, in an attempt to 'integrate' compliant artists into the propaganda scheme of 'Israeli Culture', pretended to encourage Arab art activities under official Israeli patronage. Such an attempt was made at an exhibition in 1972 in Tel Aviv sponsored by Moshe Dayan's wife, to which several Palestinian artists, also from the territories occupied in 1967, were invited. But when most, and eventually all, Palestinian artists failed to submit to the ideological alignment and instructions of the Israeli 'sponsors' with regard to the content of their works, the occupation authorities quickly switched to wide-scale repression.

CENSORSHIP BY THE ZIONIST MILITARY GOVERNOR

When the Palestinian artists tried to form an open union of their own, the Military Governor prohibited the association. At present, any sort of "public" exhibition needs prior permission from the military authorities, who insist on censoring the contents beforehand. When artists submitted to the censor paintings, sculptures, drawings, and other works for an exhibition to be held in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank in 1975, 80% of the works were prohibited by the Military Governor. In protest the artists halted the entire exhibition.

Zionist censorship persecutes all kinds of 'political' expressions. It is for example forbidden to show even the colours of the traditional Palestinian flag. Moreover, any printing of a work, even just an art poster, needs special prior permission. In granting 'permissions', the Zionist occupiers have developed special skills of chicanery: Often, a final decision is delayed for months, years or even indefinitely. Or, one department of the military administration declares its "non-objection" to a project or an exhibition, while afterwards another department declares the cancellation of the activity. Part of the strategy of repression is the creation of an atmosphere of arbitrariness and permanent uncertainty about whether something will pass or be prohibited, or even severely punished.

Among the methods of systematic intimidation comes the practice of arbitrarily questioning Palestinian artists and even their progressive Jewish colleagues. Time and again artists are summoned to the military and security offices where they are held for hours and interrogated about their activities, friendships, connexions, and movements. During the recent clampdown



Kamal Al-Mughranni: "Woman from Gaza"

at the Palestinian university of Bir Zeit in the aftermath of Camp David, members of the university staff invited several Arab and also some Jewish artists from all parts of Palestine to a gathering at the campus. But on their way to Bir Zeit, the artists were stopped at a roadblock by the Israeli army and prevented from entering the university. Among them was a well-known progressive Jewish painter, Touni Toumarkin, who maintains relations of solidarity and friendship with his Arab Palestinian colleagues. All were thoroughly interrogated by the Israeli troopers. Another practice of repression is the systematic registration and questioning of numerous people who come merely to visit the rare exhibitions of Palestinian art.

The main purpose of these practices is to give the Palestinian artists and public a permanent sense of having all their activities watched. But individual intimidation does not halt at arrest

and imprisonment; the Palestinian artist Mohammed Abdel Salam, for instance, was sentenced to 4 years imprisonment because of alleged affiliation to the Palestinian Resistance. During his second year in jail, he was offered "premature" release under the condition that he renounce any kind of political activity.

UNANIMOUS RESISTANCE

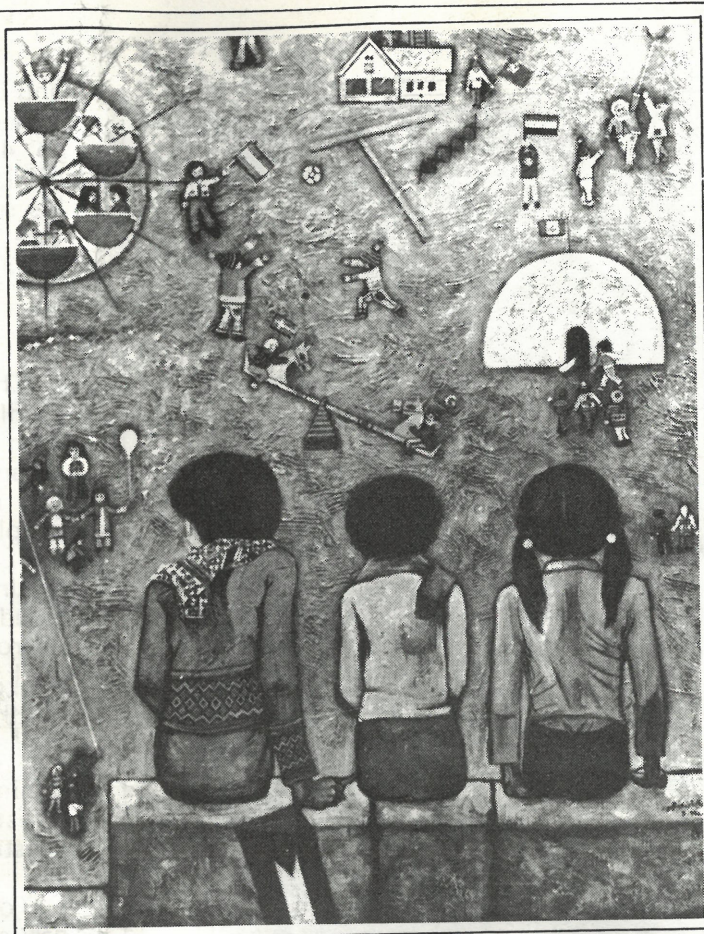
The work of Palestinian artists has been deeply affected by their common experience of Zionist occupation and suppression of Palestinians' individual and national identities, and by the unanimous resistance of the Palestinian people to their oppressors.

Under these conditions they also have developed in recent years a strikingly homogeneous approach in both the content and style of their work. When in 1975 the Palestinian artists in the occupied territories first started to coordinate their activities in common "private" exhibitions, one could still find many individual schools leaning towards traditional-Christian naturalistic, realistic, abstract, surrealist, collage, formal-constructive, and pop, etc., patterns and trends.

Today, the leading Palestinian artists in the occupied territories like Sleiman Mansour, Kamel Almughanni, Nabil Anani, Issam Badr, while striving for the perfection of various techniques, reveal an all-dominating "Palestinianity" in their works. They all follow a style which can be described as "realistic" in the widest meaning of the word, a style which is closely linked to, and in fact rooted in, Palestinian popular art traditions, folklore, handicrafts, and calligraphy. The themes are the Palestinian people's work, needs, problems, aspirations and social activities of today, and their enduring struggle against the Zionist occupation. Since openly "political" themes and expressions are forbidden, the artists use various "code" situations and symbols which will be well understood by the people: using the national colours in disguise, dressing schoolchildren presented in a demonstration-like formation in historical Palestinian dresses, showing a Palestinian family crossing the bridge over the Jordan River in the direction from Jordan to the West Bank, describing a mother, child or young girl visiting their son, father or loved one in an Israeli jail...

Favorite themes are also the presentation and description of different kinds of Palestinian popular work, activities and social gatherings,

ROOTED IN THEIR PEOPLE'S RESISTANCE



Sleiman Mansour:

Solidarity With Palestinian Children, on the occasion of the "International Year of the Child"

with a political meaning or message implicit. Modistic gags and manneristic effects, the nervous and apish glancing after the latest "trends" in Western art, especially in the U.S., have vanished from these artists' works. Their people would lack any appreciation of such bragging and self-important 'œuvres' or just laugh at them. And the Palestinian artist under occupation obviously needs his people. All the artists in the occupied territories must work at additional jobs, mostly as teachers, to earn their living, since public galleries are not allowed for them.

What the Palestinian artists badly miss is consistent contact and communication with their colleagues in exile, and the latter miss such communication even more.

POPULAR RESPONSE

Artists in Palestine under occupation do not face a problem some of their colleagues, especially in Western countries, may have, i.e., a lack of genuine interest and response from the

people. In the occupied territories, news of any 'private' exhibition, be it in a bookshop, a library, a social club or anywhere else, quickly spreads without any public advertisement, and the people come to look and find their experiences and sufferings, their open and secret hatreds and hopes expressed. They vividly judge the artists and their works. They call for changes. Faced with the daily reality of Zionist occupation in various forms, they quickly discover and reject works which threaten to degenerate into flat and hollow boasting and clichés.

The Palestinian artists under occupation actively participate in the growing struggle of our people to preserve and develop their national culture and identity against Zionist colonialism and imperialism in all its forms, including cultural and ideological distortion. Despite all the infamous forms of suppression employed by the military occupation, Palestinian artists have in fact succeeded in closing their ranks and developing their Palestinianity in close and daily symbiosis with the overall resistance of our people.

"ZION BRIGANDS"

BY MOSHE M. SUSSHOLZ

*Listen Zion Brigands!
And you — "Silent Jehovahs" of Zion!
Yes — we are Jews
Afro-Asian — is our Semitic blend,
not from Zion-hordes do we descend.
For with Rome you've shared in loot
and with blood our dignity disgraced.*

*For with our Semite brethren
we have shared centuries in peace,
whose land you have invaded,
whose cultivation toil you've demolished
and our brethren, exiled to starvation.*

*We remember, our six million flames
whose ashes you have traded for gold
and desecrated sacredness with shame
with your bartered Zion-Yakee sword.*

*We remember, — nineteen forty eight
Your Zion-massacres — Deir Yassines
Your bloody hands, still witness bear,
for not forgiven are your crimes.*

*We remember the Qibya and Kafr Qassems
when on open fields, in mid-day light
Zion guns, stilled our brethren hearts
and then — spoke of 'Zion might'.*

*We still hear cries of a brethren child,
torn from a mother's trembling hands —
pierced with spears, 'Zion' inscribed
And thrust to the abyss of death...*

*Listen Zion Brigands!
And you — "Silent Jehovahs" of Zion!
Yes — we are Jews.
Afro-Asian — is our Semitic blend,*

not from Zion-hordes do we descend.

*Come to the Ramleh prison walls,
enter the Gaza torturing chambers,
hear Zion's demand of ransom price,
feel the wounds of mutilated lives.*

*Come to our brethren's Jordan valleys,
hear the echoes of a thousand exiles,
look at the human anguished tears,
feel the hunger of a thousand orphans...*

*Come to our brethren's olive groves,
face their silent looks of anger
hear their deafening sounds of race,
from the morning star, till midnight depth.*

*Come to our brethren's vineyard path,
look at his Hut — you have ruined —
and taste his grapes of wrath,
with tastes of your own blood.*

*Listen Zion Brigands!
And you — "Silent Jehovahs" of Zion!
You must now lay down your Zion-spears!
Wash your bloody hands! —
Cape in morning black! —
Come to our brethren's eternal torch,
at his grave, you must bow in shame...
His oli'e branch, you dare not touch —
And for ever you shall mourn his name.*

*Now — Beware, Zion hordes!
For with our human brethren
We shall reach our freedom roads,
from the realm of Zion-beasts —
Toward a Palestine brethren in peace.*

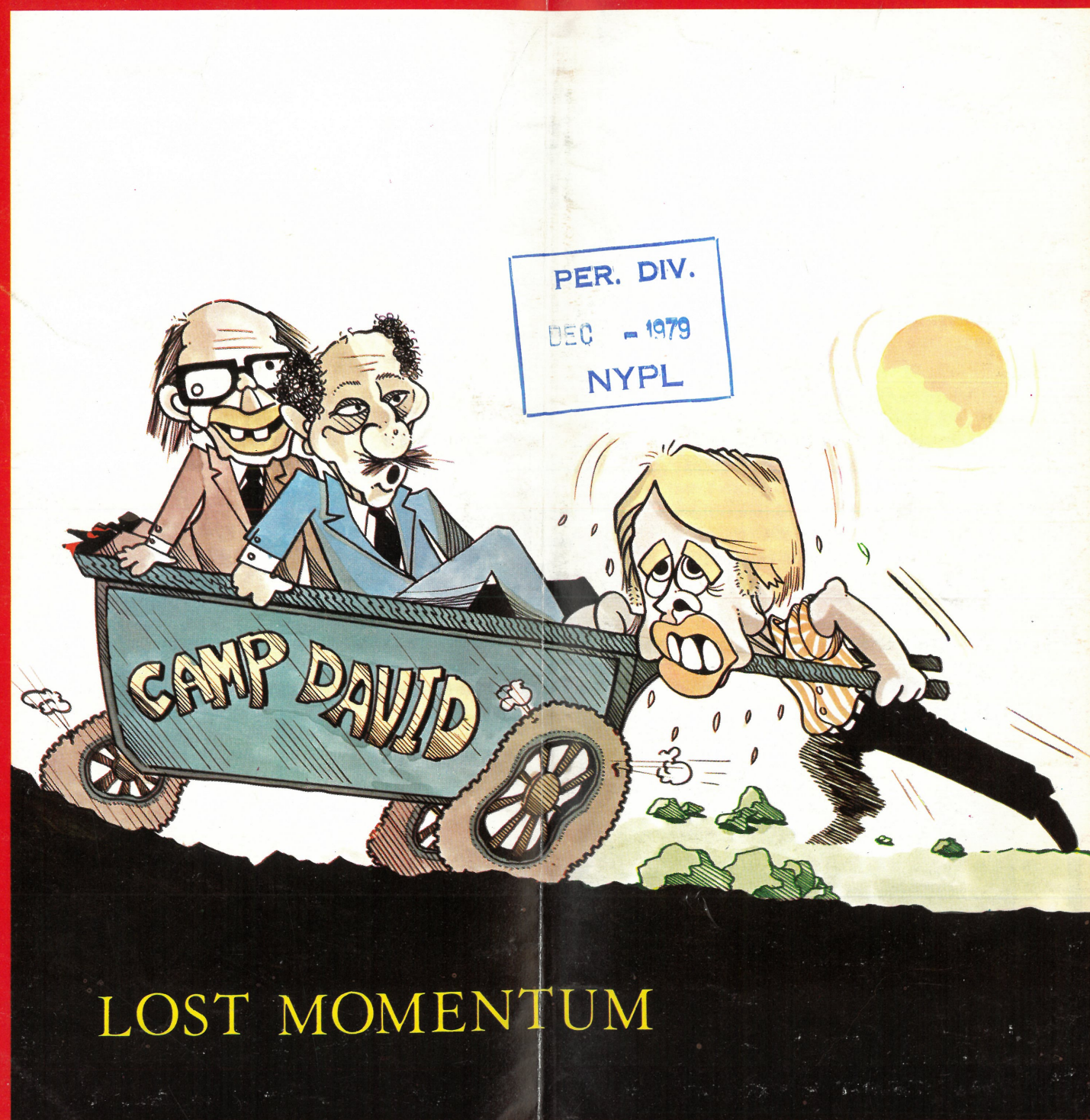
Moshe M. Susholz, is a member of the Alliance of non-Zionist Jews, Canada



Palestine

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Vol. 5, No. 20
1-15 November



LOST MOMENTUM