

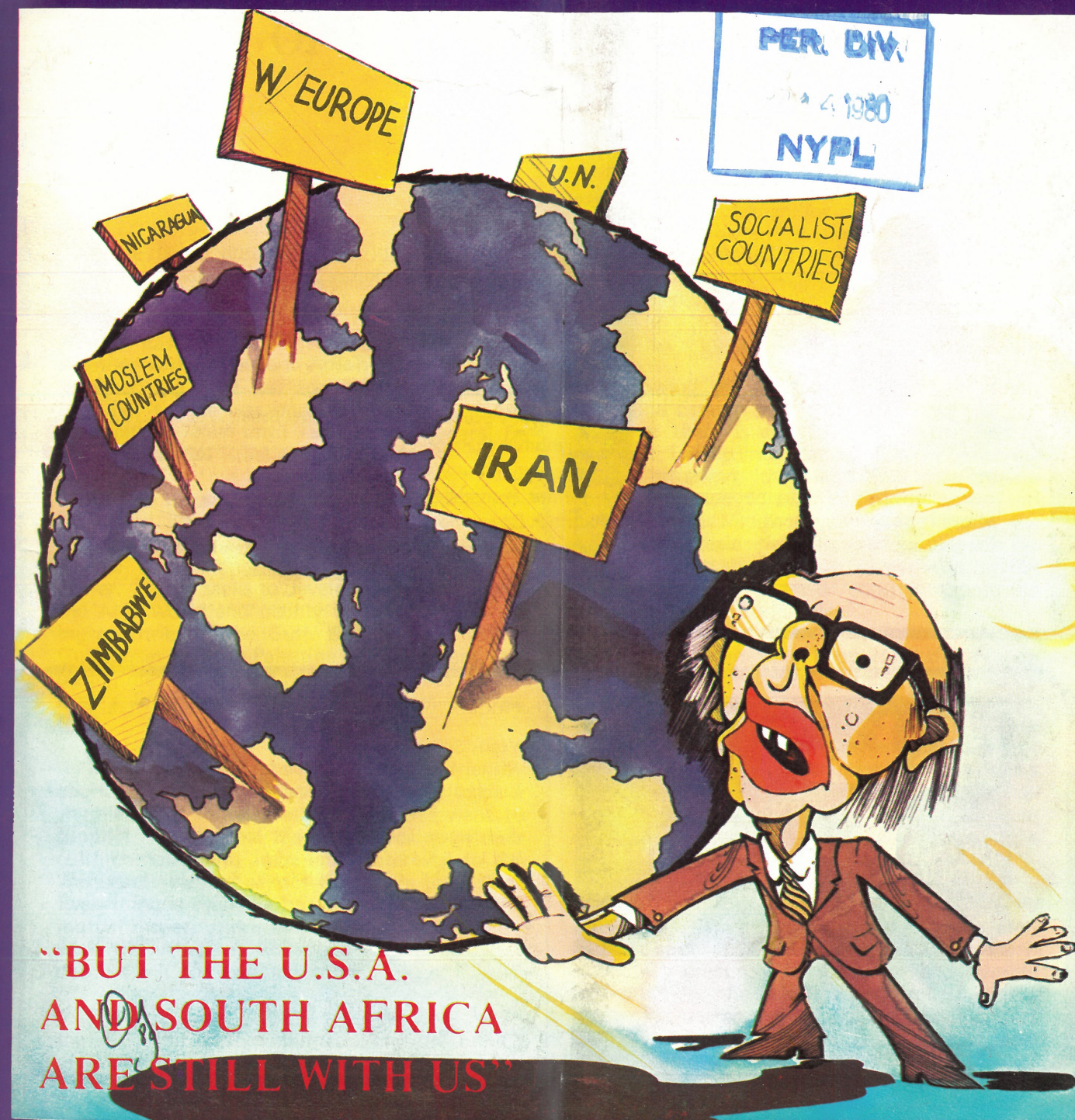


ZIONIST SQUADS  
IN JERUSALEM

# Palestine

P.L.O.  
information  
bulletin

Vol. 6, No. 4  
1-15 March 1980





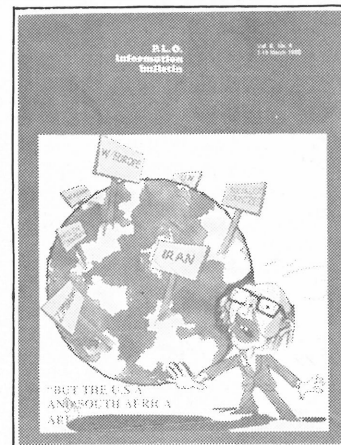
## TO OUR READERS

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

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

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

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# Palestine

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## EDITORIAL

# THE FRENCH INITIATIVE OF PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING

There is no doubt the world is witnessing important changes. France which was once one of the staunchest supporters of Israel is now opening its eyes to see the other side of the Middle East conflict. France of Guy Mollet together with Borlain and Antony Eden and Israel launched the Suez war against Egypt of Nasser in 1956. France was one of the main weapons suppliers to Israel until 1967, when General De Gaulle criticized Israel as the aggressor.

But as we say in Arabic "good people forget", and we the Palestinians want to try to forget... The era of colonialism is over and France is no longer that mighty colonialist power. France seeks to develop its relations with the Arab world and mainly with the oil producing countries of the Gulf. But the road to the Gulf passes through Palestine and Jerusalem, and during his tour the French president has had to hear a lot about Palestine, Jerusalem and the PLO.

In general, the Arabs see in France a friendly country, because the Arabs don't want to have enemies. But if the Western countries want to support Israel against the Arabs because of their guilt complex and imperialist interests, so the Westerners cannot expect love from the Arabs. Everything is available but it should be based on mutual respect and interests. To deal arrogantly with the Arabs as was done in the past few decades will not work any more.

The Palestinian cause is a central issue for all the Arab and Islamic countries, and the French president and the European nine have to face it.

They cannot always be evasive on the Palestinian just cause. It cannot work forever. The European community is now on its way towards a change in its position on the Palestinian question. But the apparent change is not enough.

Following the joint statements of President Giscard d'Estaing in the Middle East, one can say, that there is an evolution in the French position. Taking into consideration the internal French situation, the statements constitute a courageous step forward towards peace and justice in the Middle East. But looking at the Palestinian tragic situation and misery of the refugee camps the new European initiative can be considered as an act of charity towards the suffering Palestinian People.

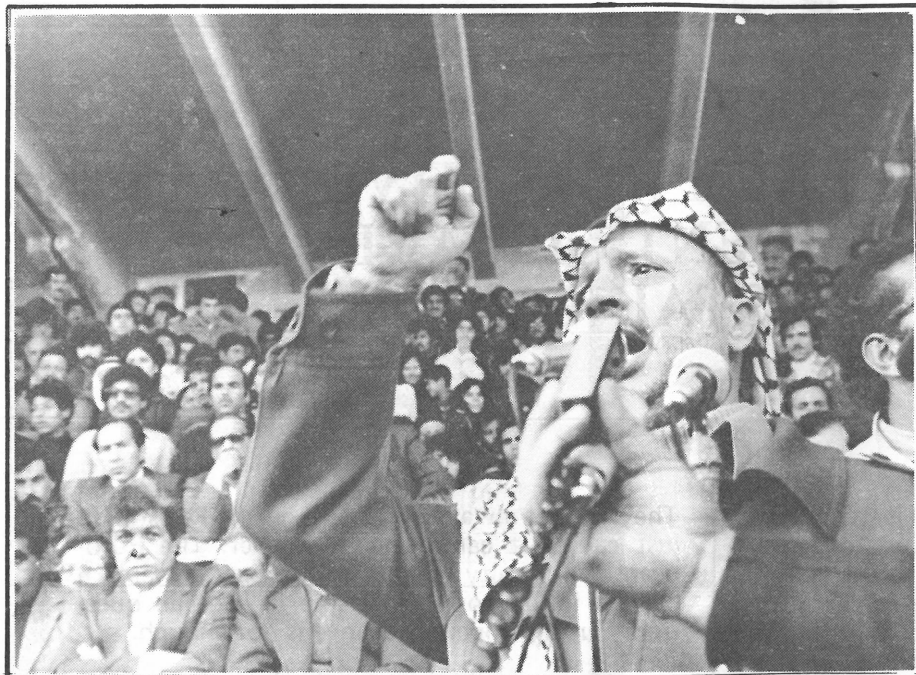
The European nine supported the French initiative for self-determination to the Palestinian People. But to degrade the self-determination right to an amended 242 — with a supplement of "Palestinian homeland" is not acceptable. The Palestinian people do not need a "homeland" deprived of sovereignty and integrity. The Palestinian people need an independent Palestinian state, and this is the right interpretation of self-determination.

The recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, inside and outside the occupied territories is a precondition for a just and durable settlement for the Palestine question. It is time for the Europeans to get rid of the Israeli-Zionist blackmailing and to stop this Zionist anachronistic and pre-historic mentality.

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## PALESTINE NOTES



Chairman Arafat: "We will decide the destiny of the Palestinian people."

### "NO ONE CAN WRITE OFF PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD

On March 2, Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and General Commander of the forces of the Palestinian Revolution, attended a reception organised by Fateh to honor William Nassar and Mahdi Bseiso, recently released from Israeli jails. Arafat said that happy as he is to be celebrating the release of the two fighters, "it must always be borne in mind that our people are still in a big prison." Turning to the current political situation, Arafat noted that "Carter has said, 'No to a Palestinian state'. If Carter believes that it is for him to bestow statehood on the Palestinian people or withhold it from them, we tell him frankly that we do not need his favours.... We will attain an independant state, by force or whatever other means. The blood of the Lebanese and Palestinian fighters will decide the fate of the Palestinian state, not Jimmy Carter.

I want to remind Carter that his National Security Advisor Brzezinski said, 'Bye, Bye PLO', after Sadat's visit to Jerusalem; we replied 'Bye, Bye to U.S. interests in this region'. The first step in this direction came from our allies in Iran. No one can write off Palestinian statehood so simply: The will of the Palestinian Revolution and the militants of the Arab Nation will decide the destiny of the Palestinian state."

### ILO INQUIRES INTO ISRAELI EXPLOITATION OF PALESTINIAN LABOUR

The PLO submitted a file on the conditions of workers inside the occupied territories to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) on February 25. The file was submitted by Daoud Barakat, the PLO representative in Geneva, during his meeting with the Deputy Director General of the ILO, who was commissioned by the Organisation's Director General to visit the occupied

territories and to study the conditions of Palestinian workers under occupation. The ILO delegation will visit trade union leaders in the occupied West Bank to hear their testimony about the conditions of the working class under occupation.

### SPANISH RED CROSS DELEGATION MEETS ARAFAT

A delegation from the Spanish Red Cross headed by Mr. E. de la Mata, President of the Spanish Red Cross and Vice President of the International League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, arrived in Beirut on February 25. The Spanish delegation visited the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Lebanese Red Cross. Chairman Yasser Arafat received the Spanish delegation on February 25. The meeting was attended by Mr. P. Cuperan, the ICRC Chief delegate in Lebanon, and Mr. Fathi Arafat, President of the PRCS and other members of the Society. During the meeting, Chairman Arafat spoke of the conditions of the Palestinian people, and stressed that they are determined to continue their struggle until they obtain their human and legitimate rights. Chairman Arafat expressed to the delegation and the guests his appreciation of the existing fraternal ties between the Spanish and Palestinian peoples.

Mr. E. de la Mata spoke of the existing friendly ties between the Spanish Red Cross and the Palestine Red Crescent Society and other Arab social organizations. He assured Chairman Arafat of the strong ties which bind the Spanish people and the Palestinian people.

### DELEGATION OF SOVIET ISLAMIC SCHOLARS

A delegation of Islamic religious scholars in the Soviet Union, headed by Abdel Ghani Allaiev, Deputy Chairman of the Religious Administration and Chairman of

the Soviet Council of the Muslims of the East, visited the headquarters of the Soviet-Palestinian Friendship Committee in Damascus on February 28. The delegation was received by Abu Mazen, member of the Fateh Central Committee and Head of the Society.

Abu Mazen spoke about the significance of Israeli-occupied Jerusalem for the Muslims of the world, and reaffirmed the Palestinian will to liberate it so that it may once more become the capital of Palestine and the spiritual capital of all Muslims. The head of the guest delegation affirmed that Soviet Muslims stand with the Palestinian people in their struggle for the liberation of their homeland, Palestine, and for the establishment of their independent democratic state; and that the Muslims of the Soviet Union will never go back on their previous stand regarding the return of Jerusalem to Muslim hands, as it was in the past. Abu Mazen presented the delegation with handicrafts from Jerusalem representing the al-Aqsa Mosque.

### SOVIET DEPUTY MINISTER HEADS FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION

A delegation from the Soviet Friendship Society, headed by Yuri Barabash, President of the Friendship Society and Soviet Deputy Minister of Culture, arrived in Damascus at the invitation of the Palestinian-USSR Friendship Society and the PLO Information and Culture Department on February 19. The delegation was received at Damascus Airport by Abu Mazen, member of Fateh Central Committee and President of the Palestinian-Soviet Friendship Society; Abdallah Hourai, General Director of the PLO Information and Culture Department; and members of the Society's Secretariat. The new headquarters of the

Palestinian-USSR Friendship Society was opened in a ceremony in Damascus, which was attended by the two delegations on February 19.

On February 21, Comrade Barabash and Abu Mazen signed an agreement for cultural and artistic cooperation and appropriate executive programs for the year 1980/81. The goal of this agreement is to strengthen the militant relations between the Palestinian people and the peoples of the USSR, and to achieve a high degree of cooperation in the artistic and cultural fields. The Soviet Union will offer scholarships and training facilities and there will be exchanges of exhibitions, films and books.

Chairman Arafat received the Soviet delegation of the USSR-Palestinian Friendship Society in Beirut on February 24. The meeting was attended by the Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon, Aleksander Soldatov; by PLO Executive Committee members Yasser Abed Rabbo and Mohammad Zuhdi al-Nashahibi; PFLP Politburo member Taysir Quba', and Palestine Liberation Front Politburo member Ali Ishaq. During the meeting, Chairman Arafat and his guests exchanged points of view on the international situation, and reviewed the friendly relations between the Palestinian and Soviet peoples.

A luncheon reception was given under the sponsorship of Chairman Arafat, in honor of the Palestinian Soviet Friendship Society on February 27. The reception was also attended by a large number of cadres of the Revolution, the members of the Society and Palestinian and Lebanese journalists. Chairman Arafat made a short speech during the reception, in which he commented on Carter's latest statement on the PLO. Chairman Arafat described the statement as being a green light for Israel to attack the Palesti-

nian Revolution. He then praised the stands of the friendly Soviet Union in support of the Arab Nation and the Palestinian Revolution.

Comrade Yuri Barabash, the Head of the Soviet delegation, also spoke about his visit to bases in South Lebanon, and about the actions of the Zionist enemy against our steadfast masses in the south. He then attacked President Carter for shedding tears over Islam in Afghanistan, while ignoring the situation in Jerusalem and Palestine.

### ARAFAT RECEIVES DELEGATION OF TUDEH PARTY

Chairman Yasser Arafat received a delegation from Tudeh (Iranian Communist Party) headed by Politburo member Muhammad Ali Khomeini on February 21. The delegation handed Chairman Arafat a message from Tudeh General Secretary Comrade Kiyanuri. The meeting, which was attended by Sakhr Abou Nizar, member of the Fateh Revolutionary Council, reviewed the regional situation and discussed ways of strengthening the militant relations between Iranian and Palestinian Revolutions.

### PLO ANNOUNCES DEATH OF AHMAD AL-SHUQAIRI

Chairman Yasser Arafat on February 26, issued a communique announcing the death of Ahmad al-Shuqairi, the first chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

Abu Jihad, member of the Fateh Central Committee and of the General Command of the Assifa forces represented Chairman Arafat at the funeral of the founder of the PLO on February 27, in Amman. A Palestinian delegation, headed by Khaled al-Fahoum, President of the Palestinian National Congress, also



## PALESTINE NOTES

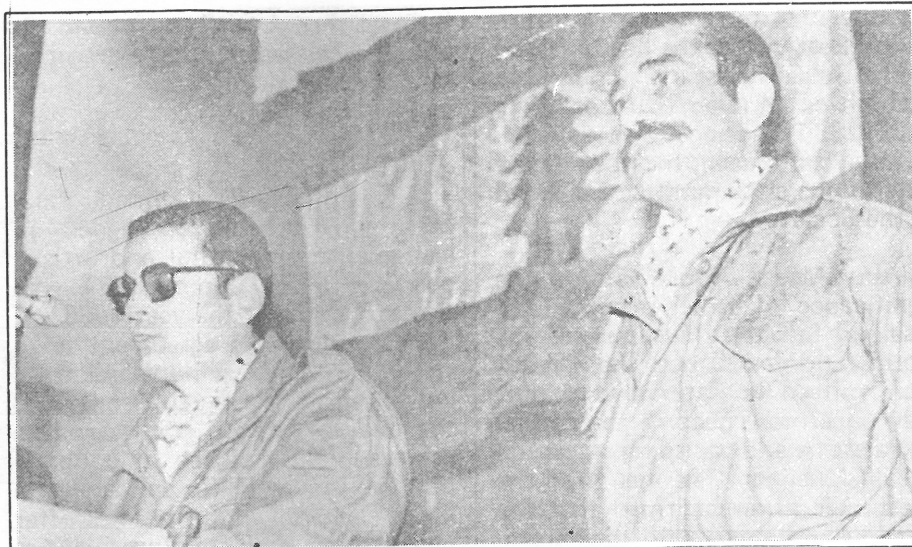
attended the funeral procession. Ahmad al-Shuqairi, who was born in 1908 in Palestine, was buried in the Abu Obeida cemetery in the Jordan Valley, after Israel's refusal to allow for his burial in Acre, where he was born. Before becoming PLO Chairman, Shuqairi worked for the Arab league and at different times led both the Syrian and the Saudi Arabian delegations at the United Nations. He was elected Chairman of the PLO shortly after it was formed in 1964 and continued in the post until after the 1967 Israeli aggression. Chairman Arafat said in statement that al-Shuqairi was "one of the great heroes of the Arab Nation."

Many cables of condolence on the death of Ahmad al-Shuqairi were received by Chairman Arafat. Among them were condolences from various heads of state and leaders of the Arab world and one from al-Shuqairi's family living in Jordan.

### FRANCE CALLS FOR PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION

In a joint communique issued during his visit to Kuwait on March 3, 1980, French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing made a joint call for Palestinian self-determination. It was the first time, the French President took up this call in public.

The Franco-Kuwaiti statement said the two leaders agreed "the Palestinian problem is not a refugee problem but one of a people which must... in the framework of a



Palestinian released prisoners, Abu Ali Mahdi Bsaysso and William Nassar, speak at press conference

### EXCHANGE OF PALESTINIAN AND ISRAELI PRISONERS

The exchange of two Palestinian militants serving life sentences in Israeli jails for an Israeli spy was carried out under the supervision of the International Red Cross at Cyprus' Larnaca airport on Feb-

ruary 22. The Palestinian militants, Abu Ali Mahdi Bsaysso and William Nassar, held a press conference in Beirut on February 26. The press conference was attended by Chairman Arafat, who briefly introduced the two militants to the press.

In March 1979, Israel handed over 76 Palestinian prisoners at Geneva airport in exchange for Israeli soldiers captured by Palestinian commandos during the 1978 Israeli aggression in southern Lebanon.

In an official statement the PLO thanked the Cypriot Government and the IRC for their assistance and cooperation in the liberation of the two militants.

lasting peace, have the right to self-determination."

Speaking to Gulf journalists last week, Giscard d'Estaing restated French policy, that a comprehensive Middle East settlement must come by Israel's withdrawal from territories occupied in the June 1967 war, recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and their participation in peace negotiations.



## PALESTINIAN WOMEN'S ORGANISATION HOLDS 3RD CONFERENCE

The Third Conference of the General Union of Palestinian Women was held in Beirut from the 25th to the 29th of February and was presided over by GUPW President Mrs. Issam Abdul Hadie.

Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization Executive Committee, addressed the opening session in the U.N.E.S.C.O. hall which was attended by the recently released Palestinian prisoners, William Nassar and Abu 'Ali Mehdi Bseiso, Palestinian and Lebanese leaders, and delegations of foreign and Arab women. In his speech, Arafat said that the Palestinian woman is a partner in the struggle, a comrade-in arms, a militant in Israeli jails and a carrier of the gun and of the revolution's flag.

Initially founded in 1965, the General Union of Palestinian Women is open for membership to any Palestinian woman or a woman married to a Palestinian. The organization has branches in nearly all the Arab countries where Palestinians live in exile. Among the aims of the Union are "mobilizing the efforts of the Palestinian woman to participate in the struggle for the national liberation and to defend her material and moral interests by trying to improve her social, cultural, vocational and living standards in general."

The Third Conference of the General Union of Palestinian Women convened as a working conference to discuss and coordinate the policies and implementation of the major committees of the union. These committees fall within the five categories: political, constitutional, internal organization and foreign relations, social, financial, and cultural. After extensive discussion, decisions that were made concerning the workings of the committees were voted upon by the general assembly. The general assembly also



### THE THIRD CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 23rd, 1980

elected the administrative board, composed of forty members, which in turn appointed an executive committee, which is composed of 13 members.

The week of the conference was highlighted with various activities. The foreign delegations were given tours of Palestinian institutions. Among them were a trip to south Lebanon, refugee camps around Beirut, a lunch at the Home for Children from Tal al-Zaatar and a tour of the Red Crescent hospital. On the second day of the conference representatives of the foreign delegations gave brief speeches. The presentations of foreign delegates extended solidarity to Palestinian women, and the Palestinian Revolution in general. They condemned Zionist repression and aggression as well as the Camp David accords.

The General Union of Palestinian Women's third conference reemphasized the necessity for national unity and of organizing women inside the framework of the PLO towards a goal of liberating Palestine and the full social potentials of the Palestinian people.

On February 29, the General Union of Palestinian Women held a rally at the close of its Third Congress, attended by Yasser Arafat; George Habash, General Secretary of the PFLP; Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi; General Secretary of the PLO Executive Committee; Albert



# PALESTINIAN WOMEN'S ORGANISATION HOLDS 3RD CONFERENCE

GUPW President  
Mrs. Issam Abdul Hadie



Farahat, member of the Central Committee of the Lebanese Communist Party; Sakhr, General Secretary of Fateh Regional Committee in Lebanon; Abdel Rahim Ahmad, General Secretary of the Arab Liberation Front; and finally, several leaders and cadres of the Palestinian Revolution and the LNM, as well as numerous Arab and international delegations.

At the end of the rally, the GUPW Third Congress sent a cable to Yasser Arafat, stressing that the Palestinian women will remain beside their brothers under the leadership of Arafat, saying that: "The General Union of Palestinian Women..... sees the central tasks of the Palestinian struggle to be the following:

1. National unity is one of the primary conditions for victory, and it is therefore necessary to deepen it by implementing the political and organisational programs which were issued by the Palestine National Council in its fourteenth session.

2. Strengthening of the heroic steadfastness of our people inside the occupied territories, and the building of the National Front within the framework of the PLO, and the escalation of armed struggle to foil the 'self-rule' scheme.

3. Serious confrontation of the imperialist plans throws the responsibility of real support for the Palestinian Revolution on the shoulders of the forces of the Arab revolution, in as much as they must guarantee the presence of the Palestinian Revolution in south Lebanon and the opening of all Arab fronts so that it can carry out its armed struggle for the liberation of Palestine.

4. The independence of Palestinian national decision-making is essential for the continuation

of armed struggle.

5. The support of the struggle of the Lebanese masses under the leadership of the Lebanese National Movement and the Lebanese National Front is an urgent necessity for the building of a national, democratic, Arab and unified Lebanon.

6. All factions of the Arab liberation movement are called upon to strengthen their struggle and their alliance, and to form a wide and unified national front on the basis of confronting the imperialist-Zionist-Sadatist-reactionary Camp David alliance.

7. The consolidation of the Egyptian national movement, and giving it all forms of support to enable it to lead the struggle of the Arab Egyptian masses for the overthrow of Sadat's treacherous regime.

8. Continued struggle for the consolidation and development of the role of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front in countering the Camp David alliance.

9. To accord the Arab masses their democratic freedoms so they can play their role in confronting imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plans.

10. The consolidation and strengthening of the alliance with the Iranian revolution in its confronting with the imperialist campaign which aims at its downfall.

11. The strengthening and deepening of the relations of common struggle with all liberation movements and democratic and progressive forces in the world, and with the Socialist bloc, headed by the friendly Soviet Union.

FOR THE FIRST TIME:

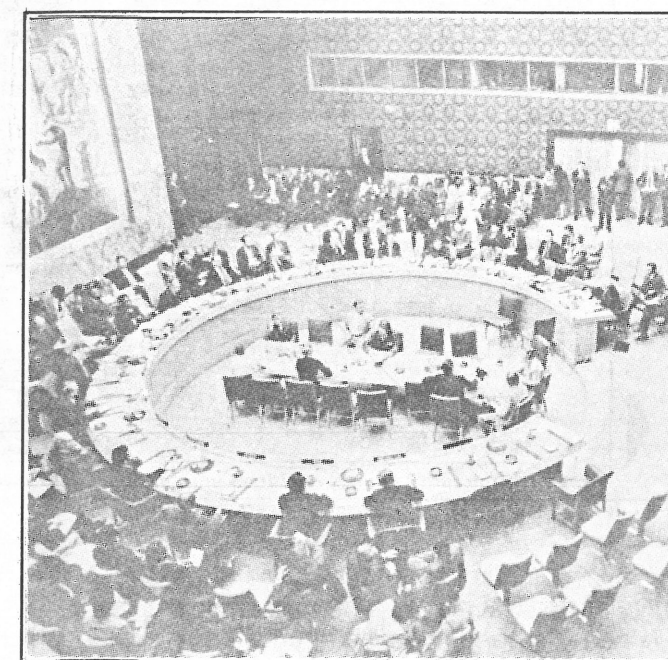
## U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY CONDEMNS ISRAEL

On March 1, 1980, the U.N. Security Council for the first time unanimously condemned the insane Zionist colonization policy of the occupied Palestinian territories. Following the recent settler provocations in Hebron, even the U.S. could not help but admit the complete illegality of Zionist occupation policy at the expense of the Palestinian people and their rights. The session, held at the request of the Islamic Conference Organisation, was opened by the President of the Security Council, Mr. Peter Florin, who demanded that active measures be taken to put an end to the aggressive and repressive Israeli policies and practices in the occupied territories. The Security Council approved the participation of the PLO observer at the U.N. as a complete partner in the debate.

The Chairman of the U.N. Committee for the Investigation of Israeli Settlement Policy in the Arab occupied territories submitted a report stating that Israel's settlement policy contravenes U.N. resolutions and constitutes a danger to the security of the region. PLO observer Zuhdi al-Tarzi demanded that the Security Council order Israel to abandon its settlement policy by a certain deadline; if Israel fails to do this, a penalty should be imposed in accordance with the U.N. Charter.

### "FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF GENEVA CONVENTION"

In its final resolution, the Security Council unanimously condemned Israel for its policy of establishing settlements in occupied Arab territories and called for their dismantling. It said all measures taken by Israel to change the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure or status of the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem or any part of it, had no legal validity. Israel's practice of settling some of its population and new immigrants in those territories was a flagrant violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians in time of war. It also constituted a serious obstruction to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, the council said. It strongly deplored Israel's persistence in those policies and called on it to rescind the



measures, dismantle existing settlements and cease establishing new settlements. It also called on all states not to provide Israel with any aid to be used specifically in connection with settlements.

The resolution also strongly deplored Israel's decision to prohibit the mayor of Hebron in the West Bank from traveling to New York to testify before the council.

The Council member states voting in favour of the resolution were Bangladesh, Britain, China, France, German Democratic Republic, Jamaica, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Soviet Union, Tunisia, U.S.A. and Zambia.

Speaking after the vote Donald McHenry, the chief United States delegate, who had completed an extensive Middle East tour the previous week, said: "We regard the settlements in the occupied territories as illegal under international law."

McHenry said, however, that it was "impractical" to call for dismantling existing settlements. The U.S. position, as a matter of fact, remained





March 1 UN Security Council resolution calls for dismantling these settlements overlooking Jerusalem, built on Arab land seized in 1967

highly critical since the U.S. is continuing the ill-famed "autonomy talks" under the U.S.-Israeli-Sadat Camp David umbrella which gave the Zionists new breathing space to expand their settlement drive. The delegate of the Arab League to the U.N., Clovis Magsoud, in the debate drew attention to the fact that the situation is aggravated by the U.S.'s continued massive assistance to Israel. He also pointed out that Israel intensified its expansionist policy after the signing of the Camp David accords.

Mikhail Kharlamov, the Soviet delegate, said the council should have clearly held out the threat of punitive measures if Israel failed to comply with the resolution. The U.N. commission was asked to continue to examine the situation and report to the council by September 1.

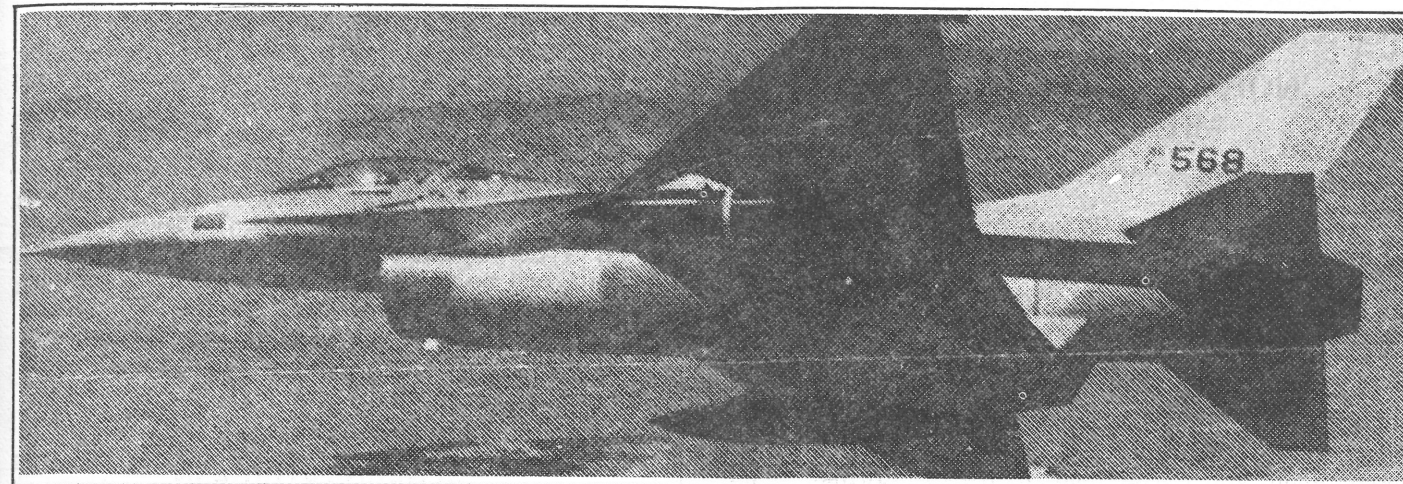
#### ISRAELI REACTION: "REALIZATION OF ZIONISM"

The Israeli government reacted with the most stubborn arrogance to the world-wide condemnation of its policy. The Israeli Minister for Education, Zbulun Hammer, declared (AFP March 2, 1980): "Israel doesn't need the permission of anybody as far as its security is concerned, and the realization of Zionism. We

have to respond to this condemnation by decisions which we are able to implement." Deputy prime minister Simha Erlich added: "We should have created indefinitely more facts, while making indefinitely less words so as not to irritate our friends and adversaries alike..."

#### CARTER: "AN ERROR"

One day after the passing of the U.N. Security Council resolution, the Carter administration presented another striking proof of the unreliability and incredibility of present U.S. policies. In a 'clarification' statement, the president declared "that the United States mistakenly voted for the U.N. resolution against Israeli settlements in occupied Arab territories because of a misunderstanding about exactly what the resolution said" (A.P., Reuter, March 4, 1980). "I want to make it clear that the vote does not represent a change in our position regarding the status of Jerusalem," his statement said. However, the only thing coming out clearly from it is the following: The U.S. administration continues to be unable to reconcile its true and unwavering imperialist commitment to and support for the Zionist state with its neoimperialist desires to lead the oil-rich and strategically important Arab and Islamic Gulf states by the nose...



Part of Egyptian-Israeli "peace" agreements: 75 U.S.-supplied F-16s to the Zionists

#### PROTESTS IN EGYPT AND ALL OVER THE ARAB WORLD

### "NORMALIZATION" MEANS MILITARIZATION

The Zionist flag was hoisted over Israel's first embassy in the Arab world on February 18. *Reuters* reported that "Arab girl students in a hostel next to the embassy premises wailed loudly as the flag was raised. 'Oh, a black day, my father!' cried one girl at the hostel, but security men rushed inside, closed the window shutters and apparently calmed down the girls."

Opposition parties that had supported the "peace treaty" also joined in the opposition to the hoisting of the Israeli flag. The Socialist Labor Party raised Palestinian flags at its main Cairo headquarters. The party's newspaper, *al-Shaab*, printed the Palestinian flag with the caption: "One million Palestinian flags in Cairo in the face of a single Israeli flag."

The Unionist Progressive Party, which opposed the "peace treaty" and has thus been banned from parliament, distributed lapel badges of the Palestinian flag. The party also hoisted Palestinian flags over its headquarters in the center of Cairo with a banner that read: "Boycott the Israelis, who killed our sons in Sinai, Abu Za'bal and Bahr el-Bakker."

In the face of popular resentment, the Egyptian government resorted to mass arrests and intimidation. *Reuters* reported that several people were arrested "while distributing leaflets calling for a boycott of the Israeli embassy and Israeli goods, tourism, newspapers, and books."

40 prominent Egyptians, including two former vice-presidents, two former prime ministers and six former ministers, joined the popular opposition by signing a petition calling for a boycott against Israel. The petition, read out at a press conference on February 25, said: "We are calling on our fellow-citizens to impose a total boycott at all levels in legitimate self-defense. We refuse to have any dealings with any form of Zionist presence and wish to contain it at its primary stage so that we can eventually liquidate it."

Sadat's attitude of not heeding to popular demands resulted in violence on February 27, the day Israel's ambassador presented his credentials in Cairo. In one incident an Egyptian student seized seven men at gunpoint 25 miles north of Cairo and demanded that the Israeli embassy be closed, the ambassador be expelled and Sadat (whom he termed "a Zionist agent") be charged with treason.

#### ARAFAT: "NORMALIZATION BETWEEN THE CONSPIRATORS AND THE TRAITORS"

As Sadat and Israel embarked on the U.S.-sponsored "normalization" plot with the exchange of ambassador agent, protests were voiced in various quarters of the Arab world. The threat to the stability of the region and to true peace posed by this sort of "normalization"



## 'NORMALIZATION' MEANS MILITARIZATION

has been reiterated by the peoples and leaders of the region.

Chairman Arafat, addressing a rally organized by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine on February 24, declared: "While Sadat, Begin and Carter meet to further normalize relations between Cairo and Tel Aviv, the Egyptian volcano will very soon erupt. For this normalization is one between the conspirators and the traitors, not one rooted in the Egyptian people, Abdel Nasser's people, or in the Egyptian soil. The normalisation is a scheme to enslave the region and allow the fifth, Sixth and Seventh fleets to infiltrate into it. What normalization do they talk about, when Israeli threats and warnings are daily made to the PLO and Syria? I say to them, in the name of the Joint Palestinian-Lebanese command and of the Arab people, that such threats were voiced often in the past, but were foiled when confronted by the steadfast Lebanese and Palestinian militants."

Arafat then confirmed that the "Palestinian Revolution does not stand alone in this struggle, but alongside it are the Iranian revolutionaries and all the revolutionaries of the Arab world. The enemy is thus welcomed to engage in a short or long battle, or whatever they wish in south Lebanon. We will fight until the liberation of the whole of Palestine, and the establishment of a democratic and independent state. This state will be an oasis for free and honest people; and for all the democrats of the world. Palestine was sold cheaply, but we will regain it no matter how high the cost; and every martyr will bring our objectives closer."

### GENERAL STRIKE IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Palestinian youths in the occupied West Bank demonstrated on February 21 for the second consecutive day against the opening of Israel's embassy in Cairo and the normalization of relations between Israel and Egypt. Students burned tyres in the streets of Ramallah and Israeli troops shot in the air to break up the demonstrations, arresting several people. In the Gaza Strip, Palestinian laborers were stopped at army and police roadblocks and were subjected to extensive search. Security was stepped up to prevent possible commando operations to protest at the opening of the Israeli embassy in Cairo and the arrival of the Egyptian ambassador in Tel Aviv.

On February 26, a general strike was observed all over the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in protest against the exchange of ambassadors between Israel and Egypt. The National Guidance Committee called for the strike, which was completely observed, and daily life was paralysed. The Gaza Municipal Council issued a communique asking the people to declare their attachment to their national rights and the PLO and to strengthen national unity.

### PROTEST IN LEBANON: A SAD DAY FOR ALL ARABS

In Lebanon, the country observed a two-hour strike in protest against the exchange of ambassadors between Egypt and Israel. The Lebanese Prime Minister, Selim al-Hoss, described the exchange as a step "tantamount to giving without return." Hoss asked: "How is it possible for an Arab country to offer its recognition while the Arab cause is still pending, Israel's attacks on south Lebanon continue, its occupation of Arab land persists and the Palestinian people remain destitute?" Hoss added: "What is happening will only increase our belief in the need for strengthening Arab solidarity to achieve our aims and legitimate rights."

### SAUDI ARABIA DENOUNCES; PROTESTS IN SUDAN

The Saudi Arabian government on February 27 issued a press release denouncing the exchange of ambassadors between Egypt and Israel. "The normalization of relations has increased tension in the Middle East at a time when the enemy continues to occupy Arab territory and denies the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people," the press release said.

The Sudanese Press Association sent a cable to Sadat on February 25, the "day of national mourning". The cable read: "We feel shame and disgrace, and how our heads in bitterness and remorse at the day you announce to the world, without consideration of the magnitude of the catastrophe, your acceptance of the first ambassador of the enemy in Egypt." Meanwhile Sudanese students clashed with police in February 26 during a demonstration in Khartoum against the "normalization" process. Observers point out that the Sudanese leader is among the few Arab supporters of Sadat's policy.

### ARMAMENTS FOR "PEACE" AND "NORMALIZATION"

Egyptian Defense Minister Kamal Hassan Ali gave an interview to the Foreign Press Association in Cairo on February 13, in which he outlined the military nature of the U.S.-sponsored "peace process." "Egypt is to get America's most sophisticated warplane, the F-15," he de-

clared. The weapons deal will also include "forty F-16 jet fighter planes and 250 M-60 tanks."

Asked why Egypt needed such weapons now that peace had been restored to the region, Ali replied: "In addition to defending its own territory and that of Arab states against Soviet aggression, Egypt's role will extend into Africa."

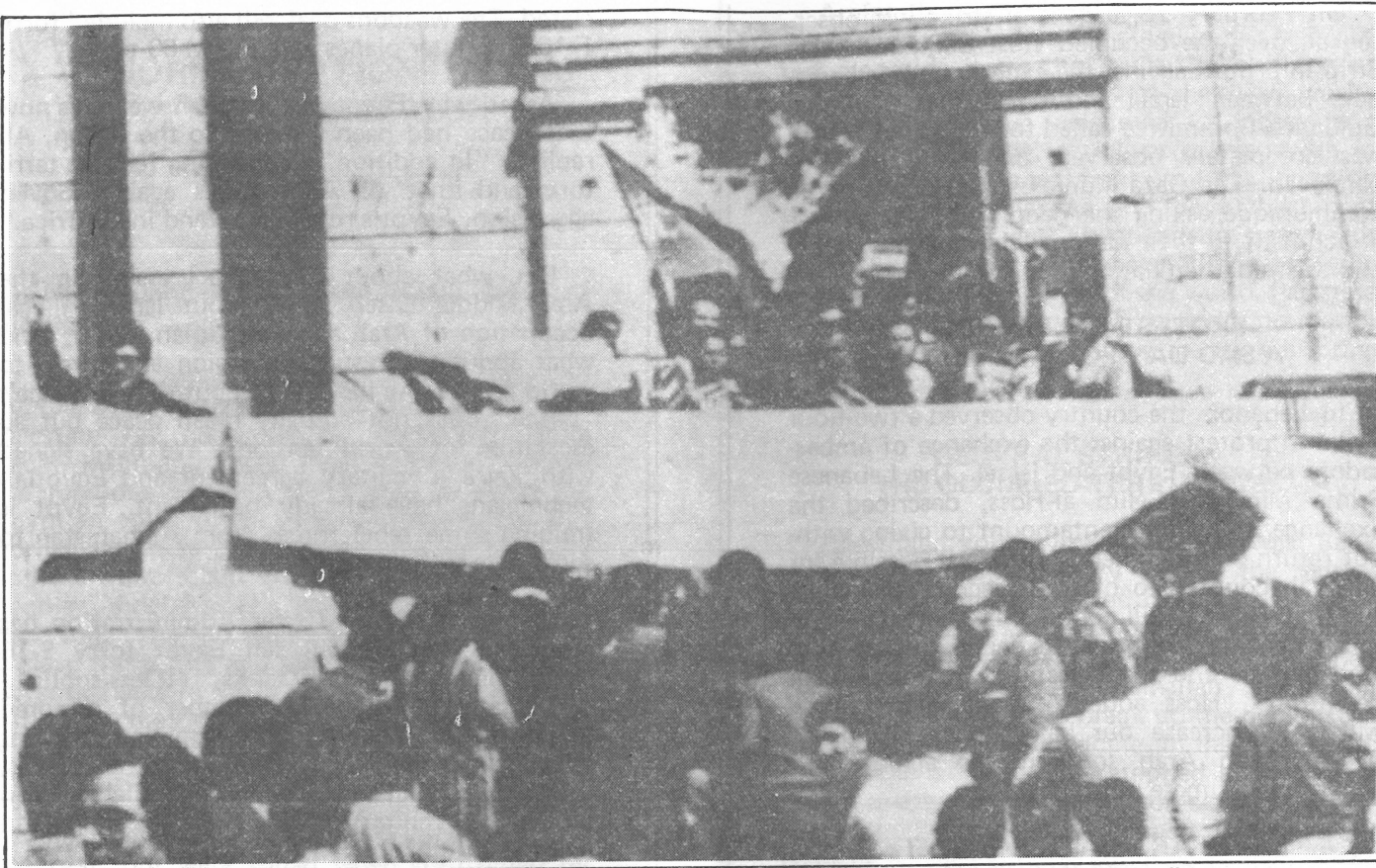
But what about Zionist aggression in the Arab Middle East? What about Israel's illegal occupation of Arab and Palestinian lands? And what about the resultant tension and threat to world peace? Ali has pointed out that America's "peace" does not actually mean peace but an escalation of world tension. "We have signed with Zaire a military agreement and Egyptian technicians have already been sent. Egypt is training some rebel forces from Afghanistan to some extent," Ali stated.

For its part, the Carter Administration has confirmed that it will sell Egypt forty F-16 fighter planes, 244 M-60 tanks, 140 less sophisticated tanks and a large number of armored troop carriers. However, the Administration has rejected Egypt's request for F-15 warplanes, since some puppets are more reliable than others, and military parity between Egypt and Israel is unthinkable.

Some American officials have reiterated their reservations about the Egyptian armed forces. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Frank Church warned: "The disaster in Iran should have been a sufficient lesson to us not to build up any kind of military colossus and depend upon it. I feel the same way about







Egyptian militants burn Israeli flag in front of the Lawyers' Union in Cairo to protest "normalization"

Egypt." The major worry of such U.S. officials is not the "Iranian disaster" but the reliance of the American government on other stooges in the Middle East besides Israel. The "more-royalist-than-the-king" approach of the Egyptian government, however, has produced debates in the US government on who is a better stooge in the Middle East for safeguarding imperialist interests. As for regional peace and a solution to the core of the Middle East conflict, the Palestinian national cause, neither the U.S.-sponsored "peace process" nor its "normalization" project deal with them. What America is deliberately seeking by these devices is an escalation of tension.

#### EGYPT AND ISRAEL TO COLLABORATE IN AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY

The Egyptian Defense Minister said on February 26 that relations between Israel and Egypt include cooperation in aircraft production. Speaking while seated in the cockpit of an Israeli-made jet fighter while touring an Israeli Aircraft Industries plant. Defense Minister Kamal Hassan Ali said: "In the future there will be cooperation in every field." Observers point out that the Israeli Aircraft Industries currently cooperates with South Africa in the production of fighter aircraft, and Egypt's cooperation is expected to boost the Zionist-racist military alliance.

#### CAMP DAVID PLAN TO DEPORT AND "RESETTLE" GAZA REFUGEES

The Jerusalem daily *al-Fajr* reported today that a U.S.-Egyptian Israeli plan has been prepared with the aim of providing a home for the biggest possible number of Gaza Strip refugees within agricultural and industrial projects to be established in the part of Sinai still under Israeli control. The newspaper added that the U.S.A. is to share in the expenses of this project together with the Israeli and Egyptian regimes, and that 150 million has been allotted to cover the expenses of the first stage. A few weeks ago, Israeli War Minister Ezer Weizman demanded that the Israeli authorities allocate funds in the budget under the heading of "settlement of refugees," which would constitute the Israeli share in this plan.

The plan as it has emerged, *al-Fajr* continued, is a U.S. plan which was originally presented to the Egyptian Government in 1953, at which time the Palestinian refugees and consequently the Egyptian government rejected it. Political observers speculate that the Camp David parties agreed on this plan during the Camp David talks, as part of a process to liquidate the Palestinian cause and to scatter and divide the Palestinian people.

## MORE SHAM AUTONOMY TALKS

On February 27, negotiators representing the three Camp David partners in crime met once again to discuss Palestinian "autonomy" without any Palestinians present. This current round of empty words took place in the Hague under tight security and secrecy. But it was no secret that the talks were as little likely to produce any results as any of the other negotiating sessions. At the end of three days of talks, the parties issued a communique announcing the fiction that the current meeting dealt with "various issues of major consequence." In the end, the only major breakthrough seemed to be that the delegations had agreed to meet again at the end of March in Egypt.

Obvious to all but the Camp David trio is the fact that no settlement in the region is possible without the full participation of the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people. U.S. imperialism is currently precluding the chance for any kind of peaceful settlement. Carter reemphasized the current U.S. aggressive posture two days before the talks began in a speech he presented before a group of American Zionists meeting in Washington, D.C. Implying that a Middle East peace is not one of the current U.S. interests, he stated:

"I am opposed to an independent Palestinian state... because in my own judgment, and in the judgment of many leaders in the Middle East, including many Arab leaders, this would be a destabilizing factor in the Middle East and would certainly not serve United States interests. I will not negotiate with nor recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization... unless it first recognizes Israel's right to exist and accepts United Nations Security (Council) Resolutions 242 and 338..."

On February 27, Yaser Abed Rabbo, speaking for the PLO Executive Committee, retorted to Carter's threats at a rally held in Beirut to denounce the Egyptian-Israeli exchange of ambassadors: "We tell Carter there can be no stability in the region unless an independent Palestinian state is set up and our people return to their homeland. The stability we want is that which guarantees independence for our people and rids them of this (American) imperialism..."

#### FAKE "AUTONOMY" SCHEMES

With minor variations, the Israeli and Egyptian "autonomy" proposals fall perfectly in line with the intransigent stance of their American sponsor. At the last negotiating charade held in mid-January, both Egypt and Israel produced elaborate documents detailing a supposed governing authority for the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Zionist proposals sought to legitimize the military occupation through an elaboration of supposed civilian "autonomy" powers, which would be delegated to the Palestinians living in the occupied territories. Among these were powers in the spheres of agriculture, health, labor, commerce, education and transport. Unmentioned in the Zionist plan is the fact that under the present governing municipal system, Palestinians already nominally are supposed to control these powers subject to the ultimate disposition of the military governor. The Zionist proposals sought to *extend* their control over water resources, energy, telephone and communications systems. Lending final hypocrisy to the Zionist plan was that "security" and foreign policy matters would remain under Zionist control. In addition, any of the other supposed "autonomy" powers would derive their source of authority from the Israeli military government.

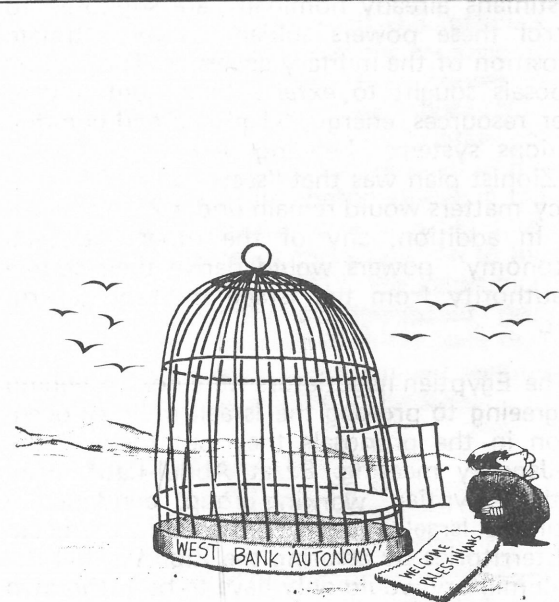
The Egyptian negotiators were not far behind in agreeing to prolong the Israeli military occupation in the proposals they put forth at the mid-January meeting. Ezzat Abdul-Latif, head of the Egyptian working group, condoned a continued Israeli military presence in the occupied territories by assuring the Zionists that the Israeli military would only have to be withdrawn "to specified security locations... for strategic purposes." (*Jerusalem Post*, January 29, 1980.) The only limitation on future Israeli troop movements in the territories would be an understanding that prior to such movements the Israelis *should* inform Palestinian "autonomous" authorities. The Sadat negotiating gang did not object to Zionist settlements in the occupied territories, but made a modest suggestion that



## MORE SHAM "AUTONOMY" TALKS

there should be a freeze on building new ones in the next five years. This suggestion has fallen on deaf ears. After the last "autonomy" meeting the Israeli government announced a new annual budget that cut all government expenditures by 6%, but increased spending for settlement expansion and the military. Finally, Abdul-Latif agreed with the Zionists that foreign policy should not "be put in the hands of the Palestinian autonomy."

With this being the main tenor of the "autonomy" talks, it is no wonder that not even one Palestinian quisling is to be found. The ludicrous position of the Sadat regime as a self-appointed guarantor of Palestinian rights is made more glaring in that Sadat has not done very well in even guaranteeing Egyptian sovereignty. Although the Israelis have withdrawn from 2/3 of the Sinai, they still hold all but one of their major air bases and every single Jewish settlement in the Sinai. Under the terms of Camp David this situation will remain in effect for 2 to 3 more years. In exchange for these small crumbs, Sadat is busy selling Egyptian sovereignty to U.S. imperialism by opening the door



to U.S. corporations, letting them have a free hand in exploiting the Egyptian people, and by urging the Carter Administration to establish military bases on Egyptian soil to become the new occupation force.

At this point the goal of the "autonomy" negotiations is merely to bide time and offer a pretense that there is still life in the Camp David corpse. This perfectly suits present U.S. imperialist strategy in the region as it is currently busy trying to regroup its overall position in the area after the "loss" of Iran by building up a direct military presence. In this U.S. election year, the Carter Administration would like to see the Palestinian question relegated to a sideshow while the U.S. tries to solve its internal social problems through the medium of a supposed external threat to "security" by the Soviet Union. In the Middle East, the Carter Administration needs time to try and consolidate a new overall reactionary regional alliance before pushing forward its lonely Egyptian-Israeli clients.

## ZIONIST DRIVE FOR ANNEXATION

There are two hitches in the current Camp David strategy which are destroying the "autonomy" negotiating tactics. First is the fact that the Zionist Begin government is using the stalemate to rapidly enforce de facto annexation of the occupied territories by stepping up the Zionist settlement drive. The Zionist desire is to see the outcome of the "autonomy" talks ensure legalization of annexation. The military government in the territories announced the cancellation of municipal elections due in April so that Palestinian national forces would not be strengthened before the supposed May 26 deadline for ending the "autonomy" negotiations. The Zionists hope that the only vote in the territories after May 26 will be one for legalizing annexation.

The second hitch which is destroying the sham of the "autonomy" negotiations is that the Palestinian people and the PLO have not remained silent in the face of this aggression against their national rights. Both armed and popular resistance to Camp David in the occupied territories is on the increase and has extended to relatively quiet areas like the Gaza Strip. The PLO has defended its strength outside the occupied territories and has diplomatically bolstered the anti-Camp David front to include even some of America's European allies. The U.S. can try to bide its time with the sham "autonomy" talks, but in the final analysis it will have to reckon with the PLO.

## THE "OPEN DOOR" TRAP:

## EGYPT'S ECONOMIC DISASTER UNDER SADAT

*(The following report on the economic situation in Egypt under the Sadat regime has been made available to "Palestine" by a West European journalist).*

Along the streets of Port Said hundreds of small counters and newly opened shops offer jeans made in Hong Kong, Japanese radios assembled in Taiwan and nylon shirts imported from South Korea; all of these are examples of cheap production being manufactured worldwide. Among the three "free zones" (the other two are Alexandria and Ismailia), Port Said is the one attracting most Egyptians, mainly during the weekend for shopping. Theoretically, the goods purchased in enter the harbour but frequently arrangements are made to evade much of this tax and the final cost is set below that asked from shops in town.

So far, the black market and the invasion of cheap foreign goods of low quality can be considered the most impressive results of the ambitious projects which prompted the creation of the free zones. The expected foreign and local capital, which was supposed to be attracted to invest in Egypt by the tax exemptions and the low cost of manpower, is still to come. Egyptian and foreign private investments in projects in the free zones have only totalled 187, 588 million Egyptian pounds over the past five years.

In the free zones, like the rest of Egypt, the results of the *infatih* ("open door" policy) are much below the optimistic expectations encouraged by the "corrective revolution" of Sadat, which was intended to make Egypt the economic and financial center of the region.

The Egypt which Sadat inherited from Nasser was without doubt poor and underdeveloped. But state control of the economy, accomplished by Nasser, had produced many good results, especially in social priorities and industrial expansion which increased from 21% of the

GNP in 1950 to 38% in 1970. Nevertheless, lack of capital and the obstacles created by the slow and burgeoning bureaucracy in charge of controlling and planning the economy and finally the '67 defeat, were all detrimental factors retarding Egypt's economic development.

For Sadat, from the beginning, the remedy had to come from a radical switch which meant strengthening the private sector, which in the mixed economy under Nasser's regime of Socialism and private initiative was limited to light industry. Sadat initially looked mainly towards foreign capital, mostly that of the West. Egypt would provide an open market and a chance to penetrate the Arab markets as well as cheap labour; the Western world would provide, in turn, capital and technology.

The first law intended to attract foreign investments was issued in 1971. However, the October war was the turning point. For the first time Sadat became the undisputed leader, enjoying popular support, and at the same time able to attract funds from the oil-rich countries after the oil boom, which quadrupled the oil prices right after the war.

## SADAT'S 'INFITAH'

The 1974 law on investments provides all kinds of ways for foreign capital to be exempted from taxes from 5 to 8 years for the projects occurring inland, and unlimited exemptions for the free zone investments. Special guarantees are given to protect investments from nationalization and expropriation, while the law allows the repatriation of the capital invested. Also the profits are tax-free. The law exempts foreign investors from the requirements of the labour law which says that a fixed proportion of profits must be distributed among workers, and also that labour representation should be included in the board of directors.

The *infatih* policy was started in a hurry and



## THE "OPEN DOOR" TRAP: EGYPT'S ECONOMIC DISASTER UNDER SADAT

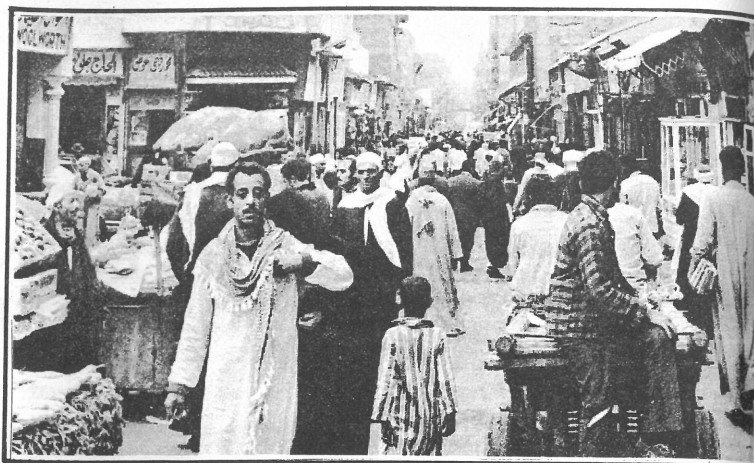
without necessary planning. It was presented to the Egyptian people as the open door to prosperity, and adorned with slogans. Soon it revealed its real trend, which was towards integrating Egypt within the process of industrial redistribution which regulates the relations between the developed countries of the west and their monopolies on the one side and the developing countries on the other. In this process, the modern developed countries provide the raw materials to finance the import of industrial goods for the internal market, thus perpetuating underdevelopment, dependence and exploitation. The capitalist developed countries on the other hand, invest capital and technology only to exploit the cheap labour in order to produce goods for export. They invest mainly in sectors where the profit is quick and high but does not produce real wealth. These sectors include tourism, banking services, light industries for food and beverages, and construction.

This trend is clearly illustrated by figures showing investments supervised by Egypt's general authority for investments and free zones. Investments in the touristic sector so far amount to L.E. 386.092 million, of which L.E. 134.579 million is foreign capital; whereas in agricultural projects only L.E. 89.869 million is invested of which L.E. 24.482 million is foreign capital. Projects in the chemical sector amount merely to L.E. 66.296 million.

The open door policy soon encouraged speculation for projects, and consequently a new class arose after a few years. Much of the capital that this class accumulated was transferred abroad, or reinvested in land speculation, construction, tourism and banking. For the 'compradore' and parasite class, wealth means adopting consumer habits similar to those of the West.

After years of austerity intended to keep a favourable balance of payments and to protect national production, Sadat's regime allowed free private importation of goods.

Egypt's desire to show a Western, "modern" facade manifests itself in shops jammed with imported goods. The integration of Egypt with the western market makes her at best only a purchasing customer; the market has become



*Sadat's opens the door to perpetuating underdevelopment, economic dependence and exploitation of the Egyptian people*

saturated with all kinds of superfluous goods of foreign origin: canned beverages, mineral water, beer, liquid milk, clothes, cosmetics, cigarettes, matches and even cotton. The streets of the towns are becoming littered with big luxury cars. For a small class of compradores, the pompous prosperity has already started.

Unlimited importation of foreign goods exacerbated inflation, which rose from a level of 5% annually in the early 1970s to a level of 70% in 1979.

Another measure intended to attract investments and also causing inflation is the decision to apply the so-called tourist exchange rate to all foreign exchange transactions, instead of applying the two former existing rates, bringing the value of the dollar from 40 to 70 piastres. This has increased the price of all imported goods, and hence all prices have risen.

The liberalisation of imports is being applied without regard to the national production which suffers from competition from foreign goods, even though the latter are more expensive. Often national goods disappear from the market in order to promote speculations in imported commodities such as cigarettes, soap, matches, and so on.

The new class enjoys substantial support from the regime, and a minister of finance who tried to pass a law limiting exorbitant profits was soon fired.

Although Egypt had no trade deficit as recently as 1973, by 1975 it had risen to L.E. 1200 million. One of the opponents of the open door policy, Fuad Dursi, the former Minister of Economy, said that Egypt is indebted to foreign countries for an amount which represents one quarter of its national income.

## AGRICULTURE SECTOR

The stagnation of agriculture obliges Egypt to consume more than what it produces. Indeed, the agriculture in Egypt is deeply affected by technological underdevelopment and by lack of interest from the regime. Although agriculture represents 30% of the GDP and employs about 50% of the labour force, the growth rate remains below Egypt's needs. In 1978, the growth rate was 2%, while the consumption per capita rose to 5.8% and the population growth rate was 2.5%.

Exports of agricultural production, mostly cotton, are dramatically falling. In 1972/3, 300,000 tons of cotton were exported, but in 1977/8 this figure had declined to 125,000 tons. Many factors are responsible for this decline. The price fixed by the government for the purchase of the crops is very low and falls below the real market price, thereby inducing the fellahin to raise livestock whose prices are not controlled. Also, their poverty compels a rising number of peasants to emigrate and thus creates a shortage of manpower in agriculture. Until now, nothing has been done to improve production and living conditions in the countryside. The regime is concentrating its efforts on land reclamation, for which Egypt is going to invest about half of its budget for agriculture allotted by the five year plan. However, according to international agencies, the reclaimed land is neither productive nor suitable for cultivation.

## INDUSTRIAL AND PUBLIC SECTOR SUFFERING

At the same time, there has not been real expansion of the industrial sector, particularly in the public sector, which represents 90% of the production and 90% of past investments. Although in the past there has been growth in production, the public sector is suffering from the effects of the *infitah* and the competition of the private (local as well as foreign) sector which enjoys several advantages. Today, the opposition is accusing Sadat of debilitating the public sector and favouring the restoration of private capitalism and the integration of Egypt in the international market. The public sector has on many occasions denounced the ill effects of the *infitah* policy, claiming that it dismantles existing industry. For example, new licenses are given to foreign projects in sectors where there already exist local industries, such as textiles and batteries. Moreover, the public sector is subject to indiscriminate taxation without any consideration for the protection of national industry. For instance, the raw materials needed to produce goods are subject to more tax duties than are the finished goods imported from

abroad. While tax exemptions for foreign investors are very generous, they are inadequate for public industry, which suffers from outdated regulations and laws as well as from the slow and inefficient bureaucracy. The public sector thus must also confront a privileged competition which already is superior due to its advanced technology and facilities.

Despite the Sadat regime's attempts to attract foreign capital, foreign investments have so far remained below expectations. The general authority for investment and free zones puts the total foreign investments that have been approved for projects at E.L. 1.585,936 million. According to foreign and local sources, however, the real figures are much lower. Of the total projects approved in 1974, only 12% are actual in production.

From the beginning of *infitah*, foreign investors have come to Egypt, taken a look and left. Sadat was heavily depending on the results of opening up to the West, simultaneously cutting ties with the Soviets, and eventually the peace treaty to attract capital, all pretty much in vain. There are various reasons behind this lack of cooperation and enthusiasm from both Arab and Western investors: lack of infrastructure, incredibly complex bureaucracy regulations, an obsolete and inefficient system of communications and transport, and a "wait and see" attitude towards the political stability of the regime.

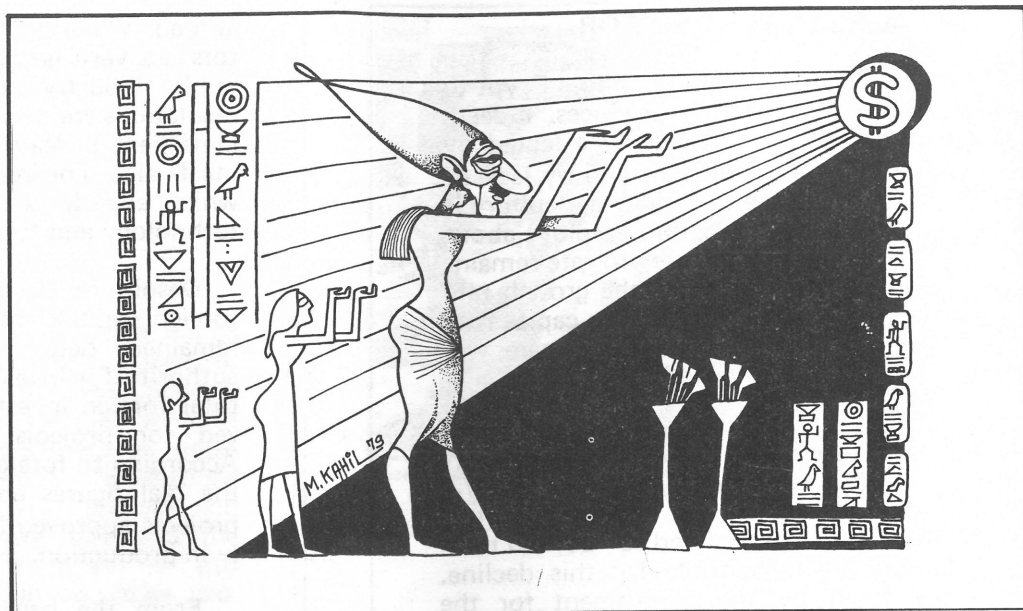
## ARAB BOYCOTT

The Arab boycott has had a substantial though indirect impact. The substantial of Egypt had made exploitation of the *infitah* less attractive. One of the attractions of Egypt had been the opportunity to penetrate Arab markets by giving them access to western made goods, exporting through Egyptian mediation and also exporting goods made in Egypt and benefiting from the tax exemption given to Egypt by the Arab common market. Many companies which were on the Arab boycott list were hoping to regain Arab markets by investing in Egypt.

The Arab boycott of Egypt has resulted in big changes in the picture. Not only has Egypt's membership in the Arab common market been frozen, but now the foreign investors and corporations are apprehensive of antagonizing other Arab countries. Among others, the Michelin company, which was planning to build a tire factory, has frozen the project. Ford Motor Company was planning to reopen an assembly plant for trucks near Alexandria but later canceled the idea due to fear of being black-listed.

In the last few months, Sadat has tried to





overcome such obstacles by resorting to the mediation of Austrian Chancellor Kreisky, who was supposed to convince on the one hand the investors, and on the other to soften Arab hostility by using his positive reputation gained by his declared sympathy with the Palestinian cause.

Sadat has also resorted to direct help from Begin by using him to contact Zionist "fat cats" in America. Rockefeller, Rothschild and Eisenberg have paid a visit to Egypt. The visit inspired Egyptian hopes but up till now one does not know how many practical benefits it will bring.

#### BLEAK OUTLOOK

Overwhelmed by debts, with a deficit that rose from 100 million Egyptian pounds in 1970 to the current debt of 2,400 million, Sadat's Egypt is constantly in need of loans and external aid, despite its official growth rate of 8.4% last year, and in spite of the large sums coming from emigrants' remittances from abroad totalling one million Egyptian pounds per day. In the past few years, the oil rich Arab countries have provided impressive aid. Saudi Arabia alone has given about \$7 billion while the total amount of Arab aid has reached approximately \$10 billion. Of this amount \$3.7 billion has been in direct aid, \$725,000 in concessionary loans from various funds, and \$2 billion from the Gulf Organisation for the Development of Egypt, and \$2 billion dollars as deposits in the Central Bank.

The regime is now trying to minimize the impact of the Arab boycott, and in his message to the Tokyo economic summit of western leaders, Sadat asked for aid amounting to \$5 billion for the coming three years just to compensate for the loss of Arab help. The deficit in the balance of trade is expected to rise

from \$1.9 billion to \$5.4 billion due to the loss of Arab aid, the fall of exports to the Arab countries, the expected fall in the remittances of the emigrants and in the tourism income, due to the absence of the Arab tourists. The Arabs comprised 80% of Egypt's tourists, and although the revenue in this sector was still high, the 1979 income has been less, though official figures have not been published yet. The regime maintains that private Arab capital is still coming to Egypt, and indeed, it is known that in many sectors like housing and tourism, Arab money, among it Libyan, is being invested. The regime has published figures of two newly operating banks, the "New Faisal Islamic Bank", whose chairman is Prince Mohammed Faisal, the brother of Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Joint Arab Investment Bank, in which the UAE has control of half of the capital.

There are Investment signs in the banking sector as well that in the long run, however, the boycott measures will harm Egyptian interests. For instance, the negotiations for the loan of \$300 million conducted by Paris-based banks were frozen. Also, the Arab Organization for Industrialization, AOI, which was to produce armaments in Egypt and which was to invest \$1.5 billion in the project, has been canceled.

Egypt is currently trying to obtain from the West aid which it lost from the Arabs. So far, international organizations and the U.S., West Germany and Japan are likely to give \$2 billion a year. "But money", says Fuad Mursi, "will not be the right therapy for the illness of the Egyptian economy, which has roots in the trend Sadat has imposed on it. The only alternative involves a radical change". Under Sadat, who is becoming more dependent on the West, both politically and economically, it is unlikely such a change will take place.

## ZIONISM IN PRACTICE

### ZIONISTS ATTACK LEADING BRITISH RABBI

The Grand Israeli Council accused the British Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits of casting doubts about the "eternal rights of the Jewish people to the 'Land of Israel'" the Associated Press reported on February 19. Jakobovits told reporters that he supports the concept of a Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and he would even allow such a state to have its capital in Jerusalem, and "I want the silent majority of the British Jews to be silent no longer." The Interior Israeli Minister, Yousef Burg said "I hope Jakobovits was misquoted if not, it would be very serious." The Grand Council headed by Shlomo Goren, however, decided to condemn Jakobovits' statement in the strongest terms.

### ORTHODOX CONFERENCE PROTESTS AGAINST ISRAELI VANDALISM

The Second Greek Orthodox Conference held in Jerusalem strongly denounced repeated Israeli aggression against religious institutions and clergymen in the occupied territories. It called on the Israeli authorities to put an end to these violations, and guarantee the protection of the Holy Places. These resolutions were adopted in the Second Orthodox Conference which was held on February 28, 1980. The Head of the Orthodox Lay Council, delivered a speech during the conference, denouncing such acts, and expressing support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people. He said: "It must be clearly understood that we are a part of the Palestinian people and that our activities are not based on sectarian but on national aspira-

tions." The conference was attended by eighty delegates representing Orthodox communities in twenty-three towns and villages in occupied Palestine.

### ZIONIST PROVOCATEURS DAMAGE 50 PALESTINIAN CARS

The town of Halhoul, near Hebron, in the occupied West Bank, was on February 27, again subjected to an assault of wanton vandalism by the settlers of Kiryat Arba. At dawn they rampaged through the town, damaging fifty vehicles belonging to Palestinian citizens, according to reports from the occupied territories. The angry citizens of Halhoul gathered in the town to protest against the act of vandalism, which is only an aspect of the official vandalism practiced by the Israeli authorities. Israeli security dispersed the gathering by force and fired tear gas canisters at the citizens. Hebron Mayor Fahd Qawasmeh, together with other West Bank Mayors, came to Halhoul to express support for the citizens of the town and to condemn the attacks by the Israeli settlers.

### ISRAELI AUTHORITIES REVOKE U.S. REPORTER'S ACCREDITATION

The Israeli government has withdrawn the press credentials of the American reporter, Dan. Raviv, working for the CBS Tel Aviv bureau, for publishing in Rome a report that Israel had exploded a nuclear bomb in the Atlantic Ocean with the cooperation of South Africa ("International Herald Tribune," February 24, 1980). 10 years ago, the foreign correspondent Tony Hatch was similarly punished for publishing a report that an Israeli Army commando unit had crossed the Gulf of Suez into Egypt on a secret mission.

### ISRAELI SOLDIER SENTENCED BECAUSE OF "DISOBEDIENCE"

Reuter News Agency reported on February 26, that an Israeli soldier, Dani Amir, has been sentenced for the third time to 35 days in jail

by a military court for refusing to serve in the occupied West Bank. Amir with 26 other Israeli youths sent a letter to Defence Minister Ezer Weizman last year saying that they would refuse to be posted on the West Bank because they oppose the Israeli occupation. Amir has already served two 35-day sentences for disobeying orders to serve in the West Bank.

### ZIONISTS EXPAND SETTLEMENT PLANS

The Knesset Foreign Affairs Committee adopted a resolution on February 25 calling for an increase in settlement operations in the Gaza strip. The committee claimed that these new settlements would consolidate Israel's position, since a civilian Israeli presence in the Gaza strip would guarantee the existence of a security belt and the freedom of movement for Israeli military units.

The same committee toured the Arab city of Hebron and the Kiryat Arba' settlement on February 26 to supervise settlement activities there, following an Israeli decision to allow settlement in the Arab city of Hebron. The move was adopted in order to encourage Israeli settlers to set-up colonies in the area.

### 3,500 DUNUMS OF PALESTINIAN LAND CONFISCATED

The representative of Palestinian owners of the land seized by the Israeli authorities in the villages of al-Khader and Beit Omer, sent a cable to the U.N. Security Council on February 25 to protest the Israeli confiscation of 3,500 dunums of land from the two villages. The cable asked the Security Council to put an end to Israeli settlement and land seizures. The Zionist settlers began enlarging the settlement of Migdad Aoz, which was established in Beit Omer. Zionist surveyors began work on al-Khader village land which was seized to establish a new settlement. Fifteen Palestinian owners of the land seized in Abboud village near Ramallah submitted a memorandum against the decision of the military Governor



# ZIONISM IN PRACTICE

of the West Bank to seize their land in order to establish a new settlement. In a memorandum submitted to the Military Government's appeal committee, the villagers said that the land seizure order was illegal, since the land is a the private property of these citizens. The villagers said the area was agricultural and had been cultivated for hundreds of years by Arabs, and that the seizure decision was unjust.

## JUDAIZATION GOES ON: PALESTINIANS FORCED TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES IN JERUSALEM

The Israeli authorities have ordered the Palestinian citizen Ayyub al-Tutunji to evacuate his home in

Old Jerusalem by the 4th of March. Tutunji said that the Israeli authorities had already asked him to sell his home for a certain sum and that the Israeli company for the "restoration of the Jewish quarter" had offered him an apartment in Beit Hanina instead of his house; but he refused both offers. As a result, he recently received several warnings to evacuate his home, and he was dismissed from his job at the Hebrew University where he has been working for eight years. In spite of these threats therats, Tutunji was determined to remain in his home whatever the consequences.

## ANOTHER HOUSE SEALED OFF

The East Jerusalem weekly *al-Talia* in its last issue in February, reports that a Palestinian citizen of the Abu Deis' village, near Jerusalem, has appealed to the courts concerning an order by the Israeli authorities to seal off his house, whose construction was completed only four months ago. The reason given by the Israeli authorities for this measure indicates that the house is situated in a "closed-off" area comprising about 26,000

dunums in the Abu Deis and Khan al-Ahmar region. The enclosed land is slated for the expansion of the urban and industrial settlements of Ma'aleh Adumim and Ma'aleh Adumim 'B', planned to make up part of a second ring of settlements encircling Arab Jerusalem.

## ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ALLOCATES BILLIONS FOR SETTLEMENT PLANS

Despite its catastrophic budget situation, the Israeli government's spending on settlements will soar to at least I.L. 7.5 billion (about 155 million dollars) distributed in the 1980:81 budget for different ministries. For this big allocation, the Begin government introduced drastic cuts in all sectors of public spending, especially in the social sector and for subsidies for basic food. These measures will lead to further price, increases, to a sharper decrease in living standards and to wider unemployment. The Israeli government's frenzied policy of militarization and colonialist expansion is escalating at the expense not only of the rights of the Palestinian people, but also of the Jewish population.

## ISRAELI RABBI CALLS TO "DESTROY" CANDIDATE FOR U.S. PRESIDENCY

Israeli Rabbi Emanuel Rackman, president of the Israeli Bar Ilan University in Ramagan, Israel, and a strategist for the Israeli secret service Mossad, called for the slaying of U.S. presidential candidate John Connally, for being the first major candidate to ever urge autonomy for the Palestinians dispossessed by Israel. Rackman wrote in the New York "Jewish Week-American Examiner" on November 18, 1979 that "Connally must be stopped at all costs. He must not even get near the nomination! He must be destroyed, at least politically, as soon as possible." He urged Jews to "eradicate him from the face of the earth". "American Jewry (must) act speedily and with devastating effectiveness". He urged "Jews even to be violent" in "destroying the dire threat to Israel and U.S. Jewry".

Connally on October 11, 1979, proposed that Israel return to the Arabs conquered Arab terri-

tories. He urged Israel to abandon its "creeping annexation of the West Bank", declaring that Mideast peace requires Israel's withdrawal from occupied territories. He also believes the Palestinians should be allowed their right to self-determination: whether they prefer the West Bank and Gaza to be governed as an entirely independent entity, or to be an autonomous region within the Kingdom of Jordan. Connally also called for the removal of absolute Zionist sovereignty over Jerusalem and the opening of the city to all faiths and national groups. In return for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, Connally said Arab nations must forsake the oil weapon embargo and return to stable oil prices in real terms.

The threats of Rackman his ilk appear to have already had their effect on Connally. On January 4, 1980, Connally renewed his earlier call for an immediate U.S. military presence in the Middle East. He no longer mentioned guaranteeing Palestinian rights. Now, he stresses his ill-advised plan to send American troops to the Middle East in order to obtain a steady supplies of oil for the U.S.



## ISRAELI TORTURE PARALYSES PALESTINIAN PRISONER

The Hebrew daily *Haaretz* admitted on February 17 that a Palestinian prisoner, Ya'afouri, about 30 years old, had been released last week after serving two years of "administrative detention", but was immediately transferred to a mental home near Bethlehem.

His lawyer, Mrs. Felicia Langer, said that Ya'afouri is now mentally ill and unable to speak or look after himself without help. Zionists burnt him with cigarettes on the face and hands ten months ago. He had been in excellent health when imprisoned. The Mayor of Nablus, Bassam Shaka, said that Ya'afouri had been detained without any charges being made against him. Israeli military authorities declined to comment on the reports of Ya'afouri's condition, but General Matt said a statement would be issued "later". They even barred journalists from seeing Ya'afouri in the hospital to which he had been admitted.

## ZIONISTS TORTURE THEIR OWN POLICE AGENTS

If one has not been persuaded in the past by international investigatory evidence that the practice of torture and brutality against Palestinian detainees is widespread in Israeli prisons, there is now an uproar in the Zionist press about police brutality against Jews who are arrested on criminal charges.

The most common charges levelled against the Zionist government regarding torture is that

the practice is so systematized that it can only be sanctioned by the highest political authorities. In addition, authoritative international investigations, such as the one conducted in 1977 by the *London Sunday Times* Insight Team, have determined that the Zionists utilize special detention centers specifically for the purpose of extracting "confessions" by torture — such as the so-called "Russian Compound" in Jerusalem.

A brutality case that recently came to light involved Jewish guards stationed in the "Russian Compound" beating unconscious another Jewish police agent. The *Jerusalem Post* of January 30 reported: "An undercover police agent who was arrested to bolster the credibility of his cover was so severely beaten by his gaolers, who were unaware of his identity, that he fainted and required hospitalization."

The undercover agent had been assigned to infiltrate the Jerusalem drug underworld. The *Post* added, "To boost his image in the eyes of his new acquaintances, his commanders arranged for his arrest and he was brought, handcuffed, to the Russian Compound lock-up. As soon as the doors closed, four policemen assigned to guarding the prisoners beat him and kicked him until he collapsed unconscious."

Police violence against other Jews, especially those of Oriental origin, has reached such proportions that the Minister of Justice, Shmuel Tamir, and Police Minister Josef Burg were forced to appoint a government committee to investigate the brutality reports last May. The results were reported in the *Jerusalem Post* on February 5 and stated in part that "the use of violence has become habitual and the commanders have not drawn the correct conclusions from these facts."

One conclusion to be drawn from the report was that it is the "commanders" themselves who are the torturers. The report found that 76% of the policemen who have been charged with brutality had at least four years seniority.

As for legal recourse against prison brutality, the *Post* states that "police investigations of the suspects' subsequent complaints was slow, inefficient and so lacking in objectivity that it was clear that the aim was to hush things up."

The Zionist government has never allowed any independent investigatory body access to Palestinians undergoing interrogation. This includes lawyers and the International Red Cross. If what is reported above is standard interrogation procedures for Jewish criminals who are at the top of the prison social strata, it cannot be expected that any safeguards can exist for Palestinian prisoners against the Zionist practice of torture.



# OCCUPATION DIARY

## DEFENCE OF ARAB LANDS CONFERENCE

The regional Conference for the Defence of Arab Lands met in the city of Nazareth on February 14. The most important issue it discussed was the question of Negev citizens who are threatened with confiscation of their lands without having the right of appeal against a Knesset bill for confiscation of Arab lands. The Arabs of Negev intend to stage a sit-in in Jerusalem to foil the plan to disperse them. The conference also discussed Israeli plans to seize more lands in Galilee for the establishment of new settlements there.

## ARBITRARY ARREST

Israeli occupation forces have arrested the brother of martyr Nasri Annani, who was killed during a demonstration in Halhoul village on March 3, 1979. The Israeli newspaper "Haaretz" said on February 18 that the man was detained for questioning regarding the killing of an Israeli soldier in Hebron two weeks ago.

## PALESTINIAN DETAINEES CLASH WITH THEIR TORMENTORS

Palestinian detainees in Nablus prison clashed in mid-February with Israeli prison officials as the latter attempted to enter the cells by force, beating the detainees with their rifle butts and using tear gas grenades. More than 500 Palestinian detainees were injured, several of them seriously. Prison officials refused to rush the injured to hospital for treatment and instead placed a number of detainees in solitary confinement and subjected them to further torture.

Nader Fayez al-Afour, a Palestinian detainee arrested without charge, and recently released from Nablus prison after spending two years there, suffers from a mental disorder as a result of torture

inflicted during his detention, the Israeli daily "Haaretz" reported on February 17.

## PRCS REQUESTS IRC TO INVESTIGATE DETAINEES' CONDITIONS

The representative of the International Red Cross, IRC, in the West Bank toured Nablus city where he met with a delegation of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) on February 27. The PRCS briefed the IRC representative on the situation of Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails, the brutal treatment they are subjected to and the lack of proper medical care. The PRCS delegation requested the IRC to investigate the situation in the Nablus jail and other prisons in the occupied territories.

## PALESTINIAN PHYSICIANS SOLIDARITY WITH DETAINEES' FAMILIES

The Palestinian Physicians' Union in Nablus held a meeting with the Confederation of Charity Societies in Nablus and Jenin Districts and decided to offer free treatment to the families and parents of detained Palestinian militants in these districts under the supervision of the Union. The Confederation will make a survey of these families in order to send patients to specialists.

## PROTEST AGAINST PROVOCATIVE MEASURES

Palestinian women representing various bodies and charity committees in the West Bank staged on February 12 a sit-in at the Hebron Municipality to protest against the provocative Israeli measures imposed on the Palestinian people and detainees. The Mayors of Hebron, Halhoul and Dora, as well as many

representatives of national and religious bodies, participated in the sit-in. The protestors sent cables to the U.N. Secretary General, the Israeli Defence Minister and the Israeli military governor of the West Bank, denouncing the Israeli collective punishments against towns and villages of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and condemning Israeli settlement in Hebron. The cables also demanded a halt to arbitrary Israeli measures, the release of administratively detained Palestinians and an improvement of the conditions and treatment in Israeli prisons.

## MAYOR'S MEETING SUPPRESSED; GENERAL STRIKE

Palestinian leaders had to call off a major nationalist rally on February 18 after Israeli occupation authorities clamped a travel ban on mayors in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The plan was to hold a rally at East Jerusalem's al-Aqsa Mosque. Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf said that the prime purpose of the rally was to demonstrate the growing sense of national purpose among West Bank and Gaza Palestinians, who have been under Israeli occupation for thirteen years.

Most of the West Bank towns observed on February 19 a general strike and staged demonstrations in protest against the Israeli decision to prohibit the West Bank mayors from participating in the Palestinian national conference scheduled to be held on February 18 in al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. The protestors also denounced the opening of an Israeli embassy in Cairo. Commercial, municipal and academic activities were paralysed in Nablus, Ramallah, al-Bireh, Bir Zeit, Tulkarm, Jenin and Qalqilya. Israeli security forces set up several checkpoints at the entrances of all major towns and held up for hours cars belonging to Palestinian citizens who were subjected to endless humiliation and provocation.



*Palestinian demonstrations continue in the West Bank to protest the "autonomy" plot and the Zionist settlement drive*

## CONFISCATION OF PALESTINIAN STUDENTS' IDENTITY CARDS

The Israeli military authorities in Nablus summoned on February 19 a number of students to the military headquarters and confiscated their identity cards on charges of their alleged involvement in demonstrations. The Israeli authorities arrested on the same day a number of Palestinians in Halhoul who raised Palestinian flags over their houses in protest against the raising of the Israeli flag in Cairo. On February 20, student demonstrations were staged in Ramallah, Bethlehem, Dora and other villages in the West Bank in protest against Israeli repressive measures. Palestinian students and citizens protested the brutal collective punishment in Hebron and Gaza. Mayors of Ramallah and al-Bireh decided to postpone a trip to Amman as a result of these demonstrations.

Ramallah and al-Bireh Mayors Karim Khalaf and Ibrahim al-Tawil, respectively, held a meeting in Ramallah on February 21 to discuss the current situation in Ramallah, particularly the repressive Israeli measures taken against Palestinian students. Student demonstrations continued in major West Bank towns for the fourth day running

and the Israeli authorities decided to put arrested students on trial in military courts on charges of demonstrating and confronting Israeli soldiers.

## MAYORS INVITED TO JOIN WORLD UNION OF TWIN TOWNS

Mayors of several Palestinian towns in the occupied territories received letters from the Paris-based World Union of Twin Towns inviting them to join the organization, West Bank sources said on February 21. The sources said the Union approached representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Paris before sending the invitations. The Union said in its invitations that if the towns agreed to join, the Union would arrange for them to be twinned with towns in Western Europe. This will enable West Bank towns to present the daily problems of their inhabitants to Western Europeans, the letters said.

## IN WEST BANK AND GAZA TOWNS: CONFRONTING SETTLEMENT PROVOCATIONS AND "AUTONOMY" PLOTS

Our Palestinian people continue to confront the self-administration

conspiracy and the Zionist settlement plans in the towns of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. They planned to hold a national meeting in Jerusalem on February 19, but the Israeli military government cancelled it and prevented the mayors and their Palestinian personalities from attending the meeting. In response, the Palestinian people in the West Bank towns closed their shops and kept children out of school to protest the military government's cancellation of the national meeting, at which it had been planned to discuss the Zionist plots of autonomy and settlements. Later the national meeting issued an announcement rejecting all sorts of self-rule and the Zionist policy of settlement and Judaization.

## HEBRON REACTION

A popular meeting was held in Hebron, attended by the mayors and heads of the municipalities of Hebron, Halhoul and Dora. They declared their support for the national meeting in Jerusalem. The meeting condemned the latest Israeli measures of settling Zionist vandals in the heart of Hebron. The Hebron meeting furthermore rejected the allegations about the so-called "Jewish property of 1929" in Hebron, the civilian administration and all Camp David accords.

The meeting also condemned "normalization" and the exchange of ambassadors between Egypt and Israel, and requested the establishment of a real independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO, with Jerusalem as the capital.

Earlier, an Israeli soldier was shot dead while walking in the maze-like Arab market, and *Associated Press* added, "the Israeli army put Hebron under curfew for 10 days searching fruitlessly for the Palestinian gunman." It is clear that coexistence between the Kiryat Arba and the 50,000 Palestinian Arabs of Hebron is uneasy and even impossible.



## OCCUPATION DIARY

### AGITATION IN GAZA

Ever since Sadat proposed that the Gaza Strip should get autonomy before the West Bank, our Palestinian people there started to resist more actively. They attacked the Israelis, "killed three and 11 were injured in the city's main square," reported the Times of Feb. 17, and added that "the three died by a grenade placed" by one commando, "in the back of the army

lorry. And ninety minutes later another grenade was hurled and injured six people. Also, the Israeli Radio admitted on Feb 27, that "a grenade exploded under an Israeli military vehicle, early Wednesday,

in Djebalia refugee camp near Gaza."

Agitation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will continue. The efforts of Begin, Sadat and Carter cannot put an end to the wrong inflicted upon the Palestinians. Their Camp David accords will not secure peace for the Middle East. Recognizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people is the only way for achieving peace in the Middle East.

### ARMED RESISTANCE

The Palestinian resistance in the occupied territories escalated military activities to coincide with the Egyptian-Israeli exchange of ambassadors and normalization of relations between the two countries begun on February 19. Many operations were carried out despite strict security measures, especially in Gaza and Hebron. On February 20, Israeli radio admitted that all vehicles coming to Israel from Gaza had been delayed several hours at security check-points in the vicinity of the Erez and Nahal Oz settlements. Yet military resistance continued and enemy targets and their vital installations were subject to attacks from our commandos. The Israeli delegate at the U.N., Yehuda Blum, admitted on February 29, that Palestinian fighters have carried out 10,000 commando operations since 1967. He claimed that 640 Israelis were killed and 3,425 injured during the same period.

### ISRAELI ARMS IN THE HANDS OF PALESTINIAN COMMANDOS

Israeli authorities recently admitted that a lot of arms and ammunition were lost from army

warehouses and that some of these weapons are being used by Palestinian commandos. They did not disclose how these arms got into the hands of the Palestinian guerillas who used them in launching attacks against Israeli targets.

### EXPLOSIVE CHARGE IN KIRYAT GAT

No. 22/80:

At dawn on February 21, a Palestinian commando unit planted a timed high explosive charge inside the central bus station in Kiryat Gat, an Israeli settlement twenty kms east of Asqalan. At 6.30 a.m. the charge went off killing and injuring a number of Israeli settlers who were in the station at the time of the explosion, damaging a bus and causing considerable material damage inside the station. The Israeli security forces arrested several Palestinian citizens in the area on suspicion of involvement in the operation. However, the unit returned safely to base.

### ATTACK ON POLICE CAR IN BEERSHEBA

No. 25/80:

At 9:20 p.m. on February 24, a militant belonging to special unit "C" threw an incendiary bomb at an Israeli police vehicle parked in suburb "B" in Beersheba. The vehicle was completely destroyed and several cars parked nearby were damaged. The militant returned safely to base.

### GRENADE ATTACK ON ISRAELI PATROL IN JABALIA CAMP

No. 26/80:

At 8:00 p.m. on February 24, a militant belonging to unit "A", launched a hand grenade attack on an Israeli foot patrol in the main street of Jabalia camp, just north of Gaza city, injuring several soldiers. The Israeli security forces closed off the area and conducted a house-to-house search for the militant, who nevertheless returned safely to base.

### INTERROGATION CENTRE NEAR HAIFA ATTACKED

No 23/80:

Acting on orders, special commando unit "A" operating in the occupied territories, at dawn on February 25 placed timed high explosive charges inside the gas storage room of a building used as an interrogation centre situated in Ha'iliah Street in the Bat Jalim suburb of Haifa. At 5.30 am, the charges went off, setting the building and neighboring buildings ablaze. The explosion led to the collapse of several apartments in the building, damaged several adjacent buildings seriously, and killed three Israeli settlers and injured two others. The Israeli security forces closed off the street and declared Bat Jalim a closed area in order to carry out a search for other charges. Our commando unit returned safely to base.

### BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S CRIMES IN PALESTINE

## SUPPORTING ARMED ZIONIST GANGS

The British Mandate authorities in Palestine paved the way for the establishment of a "national home" and then a state for the Zionists in Palestine. These authorities have for 30 years worked persistently to execute the contents of the infamous Balfour Declaration.

The policy of the British Mandate authorities centred on two basic principles: firstly, encouragement of Jewish immigration to Palestine and the settling of these immigrants on Arab soil with the cooperation of the World Zionist Organisation, including the Jewish Agency and the Jewish National Fund; secondly, repression of Palestinian popular uprisings waged against the British government's plans aiming at Judaizing Palestine. The British Mandate authorities resorted to force to quell any Palestinian uprising. The British Mandate's history in Palestine is full of crimes and atrocities committed against the Palestine people. Consecutive British governments bear the responsibility for the Palestinian catastrophe.

Britain's ignoring of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people means the continuation of the old policy which led to the Palestinian diaspora and the displacement of the Palestinian people from their homeland by force. The antagonistic stand of the British government against the just struggle of the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the PLO, at a time when consecutive British governments have established the closest relations with "Israel", reflects the extent of the denial by British governments of the Palestinian people's rights



66 year-old, Abu Mousa, remembers the British atrocities of the Mandate period



## BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S CRIMES IN PALESTINE SUPPORTING THE ZIONIST ARMED GANGS

and aspirations for return to their homeland to live there decently and peacefully. This right is taken for granted by most peoples of the world, yet it has been denied by Britain and others to the Palestinian people for 32 years now.

Abu Mousa, 66 years old, is one of the old Palestinian militants who suffered from British atrocities. He comes from Kadas village, northern Palestine and is married and has seven children. He lives in exile in Lebanon, far away from his village which he was forced to leave following the establishment of the state of Israel and the withdrawal of the British Mandate authority from Palestine in mid-May 1948. Abu Mousa spoke to "Palestine" about his bitter experiences during the British Mandate in Palestine. He remembers well the British Mandate's malpractices and thus he confidently speaks about what he saw:

### THE BORDER CAVALRY FORCE

"The British Border Cavalry Force used to come and search our village and other surround-

ing villages on horses because the roads were not paved at the beginning of the Mandate. In 1936, the number of Jewish immigrants increased and the British authorities built a new road — the Malkiya-Kadas road — to facilitate the transport of building-materials imported for the establishment of Jewish colonies. The same year, the Zionist settlers set up barbed wire, on the approval of the British High Commissioner, along al-Hula lake and extended it to the Mediterranean. This was aimed to prevent Palestinians travelling to Lebanon.

"The British Mandate authorities have deceived more than once the Palestinian people. When Jewish immigrants were caught by Arab citizens after infiltrating illegally from Lebanon, British forces used to come and take these immigrants. Instead of arresting them, these forces used to discharge them to go and live in already built colonies. This policy angered the Palestinian people.

### THE UPRISING LED BY IZZEDDINE EL-KASSAM

"The Palestinian leaders, having realized the danger lying behind this British policy, launched a revolution in 1936 under the leadership of Izzeddine el-Kassam. In fact, we were fighting the immigration and the establishment of Jewish

colonies on our own lands. So we started to attack these colonies. But the British Mandate forces came to the help of the Zionists and started to cordon off our villages, detain our young people and send them to concentration camps. I was compelled to leave my village and take refuge in al-Sheikh village where I rented a tent. I started to contact my comrades to buy weapons from Syria. Sheikh Mohammed Al-Ashmar, a Syrian patriot, helped us and came more than once to Palestine on his horse to urge people to resist and fight for their independence.

"The British Mandate authorities and the British government, who promised us 'honey', fed us with 'onions' and at long last we found ourselves in exile without a homeland.

"The British military forces used to come to our villages to check the names of inhabitants against a list of names they had. When a man's name was not found on the list, they would arrest him. They also used to launch military campaigns against our militants in mountains. Many a time a battle raged in the mountains and our fighters were shelled by artillery fire.

"We were against the British Mandate authorities because we felt that our country was heading towards being conquered by the Zionists. The British government's policy paved the way for the Jews to join the British army and to train themselves to finally lay hands on the Palestinian territory.

"The British Mandate authorities built fortifications on mountains adjacent to the Lebanese and Syrian borders, specifically in the region including al-Harawi, Kadas, Adas Hill and en-Nabi Mousa villages. These authorities handed over these fortifications to the Zionist settlers who used them as military bases to shell Palestinian villages and force the Palestinian villagers to flee from their homes.

### THE SEARCH OF ABU-MOUSA'S HOUSE

"I cannot forget the day when the British military forces came to search my house. They found an empty cartridge and insisted on having my gun. I told them that the cartridge did not belong to a gun in my possession, but the children had found it in the street. They insulted me and threatened to detain me if they found the gun. They did not find my gun and I was lucky for this, because had they found it I would have faced a death sentence.

### BRITISH BIAS: ZIONIST SETTLEMENTS

"The British Mandate authorities were biased towards the Jews. They did not search their

colonies and no one was detained, although the Jews had piled up weapons of all calibres.

"At the beginning of the Mandate, some new Jewish settlements were established, including: 1. Takhshiba colony, near al-Jaouna village. 400 new settlers lived in this village after infiltrating illegally from abroad. 2. Al-Harawi colony, near Kadas village. It was first established in the 1940's and then settlers in this colony increased from 200 individuals to thousands. They also built many shelters therein. 3. Najmat as-Sobh colony, in which 1,500 Jews were gathered with the knowledge and assistance of the British Mandate authorities.

### MASS DETENTION CAMPS

"The British Mandate authorities repressed and quelled the Palestinian resistance by all means available. In 1936, the oppressed Palestinian people launched a consecutive six-month strike in protest against the coercive policy of the British Mandate government, which allowed the incessant immigration of the Jews to Palestine to convert it into a Jewish 'homeland.' The authorities then started to persecute, arrest and detain the Palestinian people and send them to detention camps built for this purpose.

"Al-Malkiya Detention Camp was crammed with more than 1,500 Palestinian villagers from the Safad region. The cause of their detention was their resistance to the policy of the British Mandate authorities, which ignored the illegal immigration of Jews and allowed them to settle in Arab owned lands. Al-Nabi Yousha'a Detention Camp was located near Kadas village. It was also crammed with Palestinian militants who resisted the plans of the British Mandate government. These and other detention camps were handed over to the Zionist gangs of the Haganah after the withdrawal of the British forces from Palestine in 1948.

### EXPLOITATION OF PALESTINIAN PEASANTS

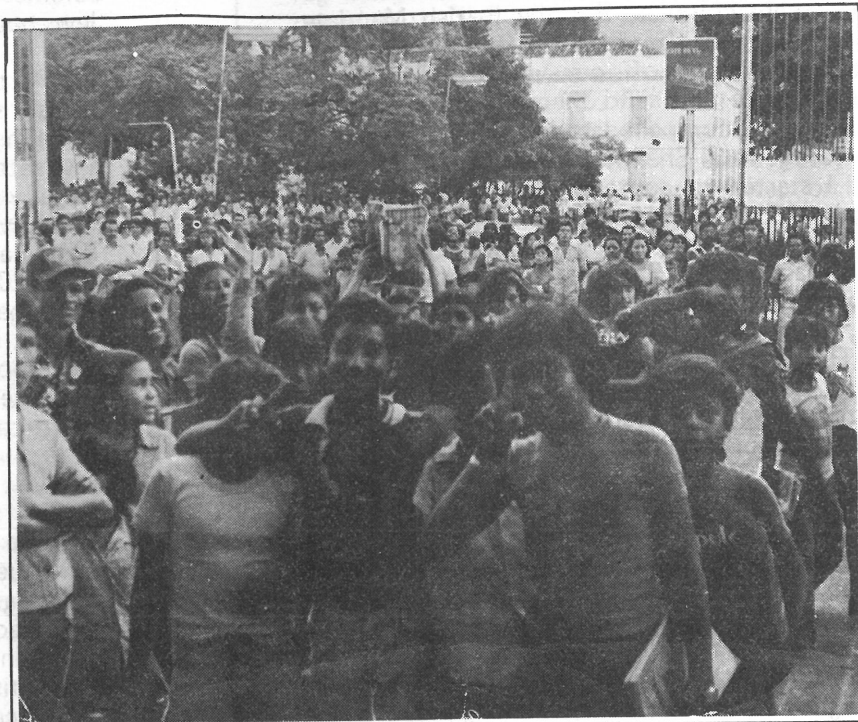
"In 1943, during World War II, the British Mandate authorities cordoned off Palestinian villages and made a survey of crops. They forced the peasants to sell them the crops at a low price: a bushel of 12 kilos of wheat at 25 piasters, which was usually sold at 100 piasters. The authorities did not give any choice to the Palestinian farmers to sell their crops at fair prices at the local market. The livestock resources were not spared. The authorities started to brand each sheep and prevented the exportation of cattle. They also bought the sheep at prices lower than those paid at the local market. The British Mandate authorities imposed the system of ration-card distribution of commodities and livestock as well."



1936: Palestinian militants  
rise up against  
British colonial domination  
and Zionist encroachment



## CENTRAL AMERICA: LIBERATION STRUGGLES INTENSIFY



Salvadorian students demonstrate against the reactionary junta

Developments in the two Central American states of Guatemala and El Salvador indicate that their populations have opted for once and for all to rid themselves of the imperialist-Zionist backed military dictatorships there. Reports from both countries indicate that a bitter struggle is being waged by the impoverished populations against the unholy alliance of military dictatorships, U.S. multinationals and Zionists.

### EL SALVADOR

In El Salvador the wealthy oligarchy, locally known as the "Fourteen Families," still controls 90 percent of the farmland and thus controls an economy based on production for export of coffee and cotton. According to United Nations statistics, well over half the population is illiterate, malnutrition is chronic, and unemployment is so widespread that thousands of Salvadoreans cross the border to Honduras in search of work.

Last October the dictatorship of Gen. Romero, on the advice of the US government, handed over power to a military and civilian junta in what was termed a "coup." But contrary to imperialist hopes, the change of faces and the promises of reform that followed did not contain the popular upsurge for change.

Workers, peasants and students have been

taking to the streets regularly in a campaign against the junta and its policies. Following the denial of basic democratic rights, major revolutionary groups including the Popular Revolutionary Bloc have resorted to armed struggle.

After meeting in Mexico City several progressive parties and mass organizations announced on February 27 the formation of a joint committee to form a democratic government. They declare their policy to be the reorganization of the state apparatus, the dissolution of paramilitary gangs and the transformation of the army. Land reform and the nationalization of key industries, banks and foreign trade have been given priority in the economic sphere.

The U.S. government has responded to the growth of resentment of its policies and those of its stooges by offering \$3.5 million worth of military aid to the junta. The *International Herald Tribune* reported on February 23 that the U.S. had dispatched "military training experts" to help the unpopular regime. State Department spokesman Thomas Reston declared on February 25, "The U.S. supports the existing government and is opposed to the reforms to change the government." American interference in the internal affairs of El Salvador reached its peak when Reston revealed, "We are in touch with governments in the surrounding countries to make our position clear."

Following the State Department statement

the Costa Rican paper *Libertad* pointed out that at the request of Washington the Guatemalan government had been concentrating military units along El Salvador's borders in preparation for an intervention. The Guatemalan dictators have long considered El Salvador as their defense line after the successful revolution in Nicaragua removed the Somoza regime last year.

### GUATEMALA

In one of the principal Central American countries, Guatemala, the native Mayan Indians who make up the majority of the population still live under medieval socio-economic conditions. 80 percent are known to be illiterate while the majority have never known modern medical treatment. 90 percent of the peasants do not own the land they farm and unemployment is high.

The only reforms ever attempted were those initiated by Jacobo Arbenz, Guatemala's President from 1951 to 1954. Upon assuming office Arbenz promoted a series of social and economic reforms which included limitations on foreign-owned plantations, including those of the notorious U.S.-based firm the United Fruit Company. The agrarian reform also included the re-distribution of land to the tiller.

Arbenz, as recently admitted by the Carter Administration, was overthrown with the help of the CIA and U.S. troops in a coup in 1954. The U.S.-sponsored coup leader, Col. Carlos Castillo, established a fascist dictatorship and invited the expelled U.S. multinationals to resume their exploitative projects. Castillo's regime forced the return of expropriated land, which despite resistance from the peasants was vigorously carried out by the dictatorship.

Since then Guatemala has been ruled by successive military juntas backed by foreign companies. To pursue their own internal squabbles and to face down the ever-growing popular resentment of their exploitative practices, the multinationals have been financing Mafia-type gangs to intimidate the local population, including small businesses.

The two most infamous such organizations, outside of the government's army and police, are the Secret Anti-Communist Army and the United Anti-Communist Front. These gangs have spread violence under the patronage of the junta, killing peasants, students and workers who dare to speak out against the ever deteriorating social and economic conditions of the majority of the population.

Inevitably, under such oppressive conditions the people of Guatemala have resorted to the only language fascists and their multinational

partners understand: revolutionary armed struggle. One organization engaged in armed struggle is the Guerilla Army of the Poor, whose ranks have swollen in proportion to the government's oppression. The Guerilla Army of the Poor, which had its origins as a peasant defense organization, has developed to encompass workers, students, and the revolutionary intelligentsia, in addition to the peasants, in a formidable alliance against the regime.

### THE ISRAELI CONNECTION

The Zionist state's active participation in the oppression of Central America is becoming well known. Just prior to the fall of Somoza in Nicaragua, television audiences all over the world witnessed a National Guard soldier kill a US journalist. Those who watched closely recall that the soldier was a member of the Israeli-trained "Special Forces" unit and was using an Israeli-made Galil rifle to shoot the American citizen.

Israel trains, arms and provides oppressive "know-how" to several Latin American dictatorships secretly. In the last days of the Somoza dictatorship, the Israeli government as a propaganda ploy announced that it was terminating military aid to the crumbling regime. Nevertheless, the Zionist newspaper the *Jerusalem Post* pointed out on January 23, 1980, that Israel under such circumstances deals with the dictatorships through an Israeli Mexican, Marcos Katz, who owns a plastics factory in Mexico City.

Katz is the agent of the Israeli Aircraft Industries for Mexico and Central America. In the words of the *Jerusalem Post*, he "arranged for delivery of a large shipment of Galil rifles to the Somoza regime in Nicaragua after Prime Minister Begin had pledged that Israel would stop supplying arms to Somoza."

Israel has stepped up the supply of arms to the dictatorships of El Salvador and Guatemala. The Salvadorean Trade Union Confederation pointed out on February 21 that Israeli advisers in Guatemala are training mercenaries for an assault on the mass movement.

Because of Israeli complicity with the dictatorships in both countries, the freedom fighters have placed Israel high on their list of enemies. The British *Guardian* of February 20 reported that the Israeli embassy in El Salvador has been forced to close down for what officials said were "economic reasons." But the paper added, "The mission could no longer afford to pay for bodyguards needed to protect the Israeli attache." This move has not affected Israeli military deliveries to the junta, because they continue to be made by Zionist agents working in the field.





Zimbabwe's new Prime Minister Robert Mugabe

## THE HISTORY OF THE "INITIATIVES" VS. ZIMBABWE:

# HAIL THE VICTORIOUS ZIMBABWEAN PEOPLE!

At long last the people of Zimbabwe have gotten rid of the racist settler regime which lorded over them for decades. But their historic accomplishment came only after they had waged a long struggle against imperialist plots and conspiracies to maintain the status quo. The history of Western "initiatives" in Southern Rhodesia/Zimbabwe during the last twenty years is a catalogue of imperialist attempts to frustrate the fight of the Zimbabwean people for national independence and liberation.

In 1960, "Africa Year," several African colonies gained their independence from British and French colonialism. But the colonial powers in Southern Rhodesia, shielded by the Portuguese colonies of Mozambique and Angola, entrenched themselves and invited settlers from all over the continent to settle in that country.

With growing demands for independence for Southern Rhodesia coming from the new African states, the British government embarked on its first "initiative" for a constitutional settlement in Rhodesia. In 1961 it staged a constitutional conference in London and offered 15 parliamentary seats for the African majority in a 100-seat "People's Assembly."

Even that offer was rejected by British interests in Southern Rhodesia, who after the failure of the constitutional conference made their "Unilateral Declaration of Independence," purportedly in rebellion against the British Crown. This clever move by British interests, which was obviously worked out with the understanding of the British government, tended to present Britain as a peace broker between the

"rebel" Ian Smith regime and the African majority.

The Africans, who never had any illusions about British moves, began resorting to armed struggle in 1965 under the organizational leadership of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU). Faced with the prospect of a popular armed struggle, the UK spearheaded several moves between 1966-1968 to compel the Smith regime to return to legality. It even at times voted in the United Nations for sanctions and gave lip service to the demands of the Organization of African Unity. The Smith regime, supported by a Britain which never adhered to the sanctions, thrived during those years.

With the liberation of Angola and Mozambique in 1974, coupled with the ever-growing involvement of U.S. multinationals in economic exploitation of the people and resources of Southern Rhodesia, the two imperialist powers had to coordinate their activities to forestall a victory for the freedom fighters.

In 1976, the U.S. and British governments came up with the "Anglo-American" proposal for Rhodesia, intended to buy time and split the ranks of the freedom fighters. The Anglo-American proposal, which called for a round-table conference in Geneva, was finally wrecked by Ian Smith, who rejected the idea of one black having an equal vote as one white. But even then the British-American complicity with Smith was obvious when he left for "home" from Geneva to be with his family during Christmas and never came back. Neither the U.S. nor Britain took measures against him.

The freedom fighters of ZANU and the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU), faced with this imperialist conspiracy, formed a coordinating organization known as the Patriotic Front, and extended the war into the heart of Southern Rhodesia.

## THE "INTERNAL SETTLEMENT" PLOT

To avert the imminent victory of the Patriotic Front, the colonial masters and Smith once again came up with a "new" initiative in 1978. They invited the Patriotic Front to attend a conference in Malta for another attempt at a constitutional settlement. Holding to its unwavering belief that there are only two parties to the conflict, Britain and the Patriotic Front, the Patriotic Front agreed to attend.

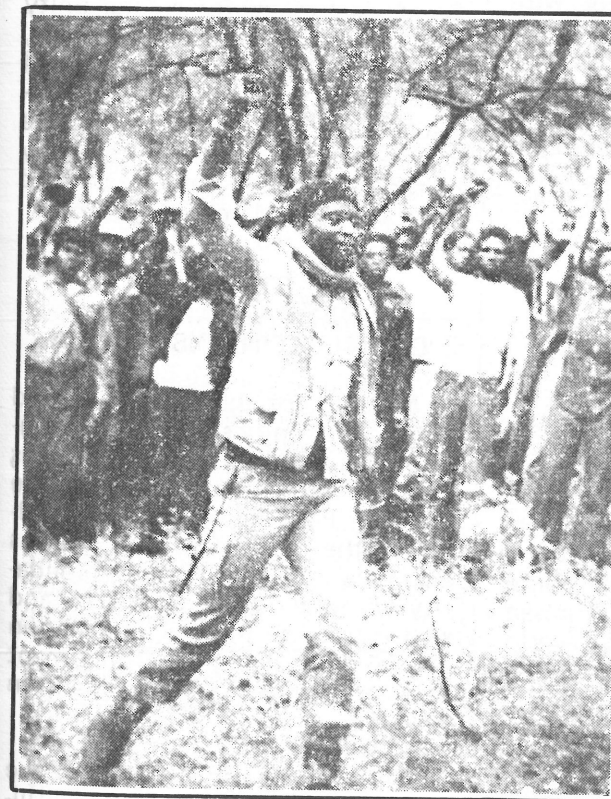
The conference was to no avail because Smith, with the backing of British and U.S. interests, declared that he was about to reach an "internal settlement" after recruiting African puppets into his racist administration. After covertly approving arrangements for an "inter-

nal" black regime, British Foreign Secretary David Owen and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance called for a continuation of the Malta Conference in Dar Es Salaam, under their co-chairmanship. This initiative was as insincere as the other imperialist initiatives. Owen insisted that the puppet government headed by Bishop Abel Muzorewa had to be a partner to the conference.

After the failure of the Dar Es Salaam Conference, Patriotic Front fighters extended the war into Salisbury itself, with ZANU fighters attacking military installations inside the capital of the racist state. The colonial masters were now nervous, because they realized their internal settlement scheme had failed completely, so they embarked on yet another initiative.

The Lancaster House Conference was summoned in 1979 by the new Conservative government in Britain, after Britain accepted for the first time that it was a party to the conflict and not just a mediator.

At the conference the Patriotic Front, confident of its popular base inside Zimbabwe, agreed to participate in elections despite the fact that 20 seats out of 100 in parliament would be set aside for whites. Lord Soames was sent to Salisbury to be the British governor of Southern Rhodesia during the election period. As campaigning for elections reached its peak in mid-February, 1980, it became all too clear that



ZANU militants celebrate election victory

the British governor was out to split the Patriotic Front and weaken the ZANU-PF party of Robert Mugabe.

## INTIMIDATION FAILS; VICTORY

Despite the Lancaster House agreement the British have allowed thousands of South African troops to remain inside Zimbabwe until today. Rhodesian Security Forces and Bishop Muzorewa's political thugs were not confined to barracks and launched a vicious campaign against ZANU-PF, making it impossible for Mugabe to campaign publicly. Over 150,000 refugees in Mozambique were not allowed to return to their country to vote since they were known to be supporters of ZANU-PF.

Well aware of imperialist intentions, Mugabe on February 25 sent a letter to Lord Soames denouncing the "irregular and blatantly unconstitutional acts" that were being taken against him and his party. Mugabe was aware of South African threats to intervene with the backing of Britain in case of a "civil war." But despite this intimidation, Mugabe declared: "ZANU freedom fighters will remain in their assembly areas out of a sense of moral duty to my people and to avoid precipitating further conflict."

The Zimbabwean people, heedless of British intimidation and South African threats of intervention in the event of a ZANU-PF victory, went to the polls between February 26 and 29 and voted Mugabe's ZANU-PF 57 seats out of the 80 allotted to blacks. 20 seats went to Joshua Nkomo's Patriotic Front party while Bishop Muzorewa, supported by Britain, managed to secure only three seats.

ZANU-PF's landslide victory has given rise to speculation of possible South African intervention in support of puppet leader Muzorewa. As to the expected split between Mugabe and Nkomo, the national election director of ZANU-PF, Eddison Zvobgo, has made it clear that "we were partners in war, we will be partners in peace."

Mugabe's victory leaves the governor no choice but to ask him to form Zimbabwe's first independent African government. But history demonstrates that imperialist intrigues will continue under new covers and "new" proposals. Nevertheless, the Zimbabwean people have proven vigilant in confronting plots and conspiracies.

Hail to the victory of the Zimbabwean people! No plot, however well organized, and no intrigues, however well concocted, can stand in the way of a people out to restore their basic rights!





Chairman Arafat meets with Irish Foreign Minister, Brian Lenihan

### IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER CONFIRMS PLO RECOGNITION

On February 26, the Foreign Minister of Ireland, Brian Lenihan, confirmed that his country recognized the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state. Mr. Lenihan was answering questions put by opposition members in the Irish parliament during a debate on the Irish-Bahraini joint communique of February

15 recognising the PLO as representing the Palestinian people. He described the communique as a logical development of the principles approved by the European Economic Community, adding that the PLO is supported by the majority of the peoples in the world and is an important factor in the region. The Irish Foreign Minister finally condemned in the strongest terms the arbitrary measures taken by the Israeli authorities in Jerusalem, including the illegal annexation of the city and its judaisation.

### BOLIVIA OFFICIALLY RECOGNISES PLO

Bolivia officially confirmed its recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The confirmation was voiced during a meeting between an Arab delegation, headed by the Algerian Foreign Minister, and members of the Andean States Alliance, which includes Venezuela, Columbia, Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador. The possibility of recognizing the PLO by other members of the Andean Alliance was announced by the Venezuela Foreign Minister Jose Zambrano Velasco on February 16. He told a press conference that recommendations on the recognition of the PLO had been submitted to the other members of the Alliance.

### PALESTINIAN CITIZEN ARRESTED IN BRAZIL

The Brazilian authorities on February 26 arrested the Palestinian citizen, Rawhi al-Khalil for participating in the protest demonstra-

tions organized by the Arab community in Brazil to coincide with the exchange of ambassadors between Egypt and Israel. The demonstrators consequently staged a sit-in at the Arab League's headquarters to protest the arrest of the Palestinian citizen and declared that they will not leave before the Brazilian authorities release him.

### INTERNATIONAL PALESTINE SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE IN BASLE

An International Committee for Solidarity with Palestine was formed in Basle, Switzerland, at the end of the International Conference for Solidarity with the Palestinian People on February 23. The Conference was attended by 75 representatives from all over the world, including World Peace Council President Romesh Chandra, Israeli progressive lawyer Felicia Langer, Panamanian adviser Marcelline Gene, and a number of other well-known personalities active in world peace movements.

The Conference elected a 15 member Executive Committee headed by Romesh Chandra, with Egyptian Unionist Progressive Party leader Khaled Mohieddine, Marcelline Gene and Greek composer Mikis Theodorakis as Vice Presidents. The Committee's mission will be to draw up plans for consolidating support for the Palestinian people's struggle.

### ARAB PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE SUPPORTS PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION

The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference announced the results of its last meeting at a press conference in Damascus on February 24. The most significant decisions are a demand that the Palestinian Revolution be allowed to engage in struggle among the Arab masses in Jordan, and a call to release all Palestinian detainees in the Jordanian prisons, so as to support the resistance of the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories to foil the autonomy conspiracy and defeat the Israeli occupation. The communique of the Permanent Secretariat called for more efforts to foil Camp David, and asked for greater unity between the Palestinian Revolution, Syria and the Lebanese National Movement. The Permanent Secretariat decided to participate in the international celebration of the Day of the Land which is due to be held in Baghdad on March 30, 1980.

### ILL-TREATMENT AND MASS ARREST OF PALESTINIANS IN U.S.A.

Members of the Palestinian and Arab communities organized popular rallies at the University of Texas, USA, in late February to protest the arrest of Palestinian students enrolled at the University. The citizens also began a hunger strike in solidarity with the detained students, and sent memos to the U.S. information media, denouncing the ill-treatment and mass arrest of Palestinians in the USA.

The memo also referred to the illegal arrest in the U.S. and ill-treatment of the Palestinian citizen

Ziad Abul Ain, threatened by extradition to Israel. U.S. police earlier in the month arrested around 24 Palestinian and Iranian students who were protesting against the attempt by a former Iranian ambassador to deliver a lecture on the university campus.

### CHAIRMAN ARAFAT MEETS SOVIET AMBASSADOR

Chairman Yasser Arafat received Comrade Aleksander Soldatov, the Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon, on February 28, who handed him an important message from the Soviet leadership concerning the latest developments in the region.

Chairman Arafat received the Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon for the second time on February 29. Comrade Soldatov handed Chairman Arafat another important message from the Soviet leadership regarding the situation in the region.

### TEN YEARS OF STRONG PLO-SOVIET RELATIONS

The Soviet News Agency Novos-

ti on February 22 issued a commentary reviewing the ten years of increasingly close relations between the PLO and the USSR since the first visit by a PLO delegation to Moscow in February 1970. The commentary noted that the delegation, headed by Chairman Yasser Arafat, included six of the eleven members of the PLO Executive Committee, and marked the recognition by the Soviet Union of the just struggle of the Palestinian people. Since then, it added, there have been many meetings between Soviet and Palestinian leaders, most notably those between Soviet President and CPSU Central Committee Secretary General Leonid Brezhnev, and Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee in April 1977 and March 1978. It noted that the opening of a PLO office in Moscow in June 1976 was another landmark in PLO-Soviet relations, as well as the establishment of a Soviet Committee of Solidarity with the Palestinian people in 1978.

### U.S. BLACKS CONFIRM SUPPORT FOR PLO

A conference of Black American clergymen confirmed their support

for the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and called on the U.S. Government to stop its economic and military aid to Israel. The conference also denounced the Camp David accords on February 26, describing them as attempts to liquidate the Palestine cause. They also called on the U.S. Government to change its policy towards the Middle East and adopt a realistic policy, recognising the just rights of the Palestinian people.

### DUTCH CITIZENS DEMONSTRATE FOR PLO

A number of Dutch citizens organised a torch light demonstration on February 27, in The Hague outside the hotel in which a round of "autonomy" negotiations took place. The demonstrators raised banners supporting the Palestinian people's struggle. One of the banners said "No Peace Without The PLO." Some of the Dutch demonstrators went on a hunger strike during The Hague talks in order to draw attention to the fact that the negotiations were aimed against the PLO and the struggle of the Palestinian people.

### LETTER TO A PALESTINIAN CHILD

School children in Blankenburg, G.D.R. wrote the following letter in response to a "postcard from a Palestinian child" which they received on the occasion of the International year of the Child in 1979.

Blankenburg, 19 December 1979

Dear Palestinian Friend:

We have received your postcard... and thank you so much. In our hometown, a little town in the German Democratic Republic, there is a Palestinian doctor who works at our hospital. One day he visited our school and told us about his Palestinian people and your hard struggle against the aggressors. It was an interesting lesson for us. The doctor told us that the Zionists attack you again and again, supported by American weapons, and that many families must live in camps. That is terrible. He showed us many slides that made a deep impression on us. But your parents will never lose courage in their fight! One day Jerusalem will be a Palestinian city where Christians, Moslems and Jews

live together in peace. You have our solidarity. In our country old and young people collect money to support those people who fight for independence and freedom.

We children in the G.D.R. live in happiness and peace. But when our fathers and mothers were children Germany was terribly destroyed. Millions of people in many countries lost their lives in World War II. After 12 years the fascists were defeated. Since then we have been building up a new state. We have friendship with all countries that want peace and progress and we are doing everything to keep peace...

We wish you all the best. Don't forget that we are your friends!

The girls and boys of form Kl. 86 and their teacher

Kerstin Benz  
Sibylle Riedel  
Dagmar Kiesling  
Susanne Bühemann  
Ulrike Gildensteng  
Volker Klemm  
René Blank

Roland Hanka  
Ingo Hennings  
Ines Erl  
Christina Striegel  
Jens-Uwe Bitter  
Sylvio Wellnitz  
Bernd Hoppe

Mario Hoffrian  
Andreas Haug  
Rainer Streckberg  
Uwe Hahne  
Thomas Schwabe  
Liselotte Sorge



# The Spy

BY MAHMOUD LABADI

The atmosphere was filled with tension and gloomy faces. Life was no longer bearable, and the children's eyes shone with the glint of challenge. Many of the young men of the village had emigrated in search of a livelihood beyond the ceasefire lines and in the oil states, while the remainder of the men had been compelled to sell their labour to the new masters for a pittance. Life grew ever harsher, and opportunities for honest employment diminished correspondingly, so that numerous peasants abandoned cultivation of the soil because there were so few of the markets that had been open to them in the past.

With the call to prayer at every dawn, one could see the workers lining up in long queues, awaiting the foreign gentlemen's bus to take them into the colonial settlements to do the arduous, demeaning jobs which the masters disdained to do. They would return in the evening exhausted, their heads bowed, the signs of weariness and frustration clearly visible on their faces. They would pass through the lanes of the village without speaking even to each other, as if their consciences were tormented or from fear of voicing any minor grievance or discontent which might lose one of them his job the following day.

As for the village itself, some treacherous informers had imposed an atmosphere of terror on it, so that people lowered their voices or glanced around fearfully whenever anyone tried to talk politics. Even the sound of the radio was turned down whenever a news bulletin was heard. A handful of informers, young men of weak character who had failed in their lives or in school, would write reports to the military governor about any grumbling in the village, or even about anyone they did not like or had quarrelled with personally. Under the occupation, these youths had been corrupted by the chief spy in the village, that veteran spy Abul Najjariya, who had worked as a spy for the

British Mandate and then collaborated with the Hashemite regime against the people of the village. This spy was used to changing masters, as he was always with "the wall that's standing". He was also used to being hated by people and living in isolation like a mangy camel for over thirty years.

These informers would scatter whenever a military patrol came to the village to punish someone who had been betrayed. The occupation troops, armed to the teeth, would beat the most dignified looking men with their rifle butts and kick them in front of everybody in order to humiliate them and teach them a lesson. Even Abu Shihada, the venerable Mayor who was over eighty years old and still working as Mayor, who had lived under the Turks, the British and the Hashemite regime, had never in his life seen such arrogance and brutality as he witnessed at the hands of these new colonisers. He decided to keep silent and maintain the dignity of his old age after a soldier one day had humiliated him, by spitting on his white beard and threatening to hit him if he intervened again on behalf of one of the villagers, and had told him, "You're a saboteur, Abu Shihada, you're not a Mayor."

But the pupils in the school were restless. They did not like their elders' fear and submissiveness to oppression. Hot blood still flowed in their veins, they were fearless and they heard about demonstrations in the larger cities like Jerusalem and Nablus, and even in nearby Jenin. They heard about strikes, the erection of barricades, the burning of tyres, the closure of streets and the stoning of occupation troops as happened in Hebron, Gaza and other Palestinian cities. So they asked themselves: why should we keep quiet?

They would listen to the radio, which told about the heroic acts of the Resistance, they heard their elders talking in low voices barely above a whisper about the guerrillas' operations in Naharia, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Questions

arose in the boys' minds. They had not fathomed this situation, but they began to understand the truth. They drew a mental picture of a guerrilla hero in their imaginations. The boys had never seen a single guerrilla in their lives, and they imagined him as a sort of angel from heaven who moved about silently by night and day on a white steed, sowing terror in the hearts of the tyrants and the occupation forces. Their feelings reached a fever pitch as they gathered around the radio, all ears, listening intently to the Voice of the Palestinian Revolution from beyond the border, declaring: "From Badr to Shams... The gift is on its way to you... God be with you... From Badr to Shams... God be with you." Their young heads wondered about Badr and Shams. Subhi, a fresh-looking youth with intelligent dark eyes, asked: "So where are Badr and Shams? Why don't they rid us of this spy?"



Zayid, who was older than Subhi, wished he could see just one guerrilla, to lead him to the house of the chief spy Abul Najjariya, so people could be rid of him and his evil. The boys reproached the Resistance and the guerrillas, who were not punishing spies but leaving them to roam around as they pleased spreading corruption in the country.

"When will the spies get what they deserve?" young Muhammad wondered, sighing. The boys despaired of waiting, as the Resistance was not punishing traitors as quickly as it should, or perhaps because the guerrillas were busy with bigger and more important questions.

"So there's no point in waiting," chestnut-haired, brown-eyed Zayid said. "We must do something."

"But how?" Subhi wondered.

The boys clustered around the radio, listening and writing with extreme concentration, even more than during the classes of the teacher Hassan, whom they respected and admired and who had proven his courage and daring when one of the pupils had raised the flag over the school and it had been left flying above the headmaster's room. The youths' hearts had fluttered with it, in joy and pride. Since that time, the teacher Hassan had enjoyed the respect of the whole village and had won the boys' admiration because he had persuaded the headmaster not to lower the flag until the occupation troops came and lowered it themselves, threatening to close the school if "sabotage actions" continued.

Zayid and Subhi wrote down fluently what the voice on the radio, coming through the air across the border from the Voice of the Revolution, was teaching about how to manufacture improvised explosives and Molotov cocktails.



# The Spy



The boys had found the solution. They decided to attack the chief spy's home after they had prepared the bomb. The three drew up the plan of attack against the spy's house with Molotov cocktails. It was a precise plan, and none of the other boys had an inkling of it. The three thought that if they killed the chief spy, then most of the smaller spies would be afraid and thus be eliminated. They would thereby save the villagers from a life of abject humiliation and so avenge the honour of the venerable Mayor Abu Shihada.

On a dark night, when the zero hour came, Zayid, Subhi and Muhammad moved stealthily towards the spy Abul Najjariya's house, each one of them carrying a proficiently made Molotov cocktail gently and carefully, for fear of an unpleasant accident. It was an ordinary



autumn night in that quiet village. No sounds of a car disturbed the silence, no headlamp penetrated the pitch-black darkness. There was nothing to be heard that night except the barking of some distant dogs and the rustling of some autumn leaves crushed under their feet. The three reached their goal and found the spy's house dark and quiet like the rest of the houses in the village. But the loud beating of their hearts reached their ears and they were alarmed that it might waken the spy from his sleep. Fear began to outweigh their courage and there were moments of hesitation which almost overwhelmed them and caused them to recoil from their goal.

But they pulled themselves together and resolved to carry it out. Each one of them competently lit the wick of his bottle, and they threw them with all their strength against the door of the house. They waited in order to watch the sweetness of vengeance, thinking that the fire would engulf the door and explode the house over the heads of the spy and his offspring. But the fire did not blaze up as quickly as they had expected. Moments passed which seemed to them a lifetime. The spy, who was on his guard against people's anger, leapt up, picked up his rifle and fired two shots in the air when he was alerted by the sound of bottles breaking in front of the door of his house. The three were seized by a cold tremor of fear which confused them, and they felt as if their feet were nailed to the ground instead of helping them to run, since they thought the bullets had pierced their bodies. That night, a short while later, a military jeep came and took the three boys to Jenin Central Prison.

The Israeli military court passed the following sentences: Zayid, aged 16, four years' imprisonment and a fine of 5,000 pounds; Subhi, aged 15, two years' imprisonment and a fine of 2,000 pounds; Muhammad, aged 15, 1 1/2 years' imprisonment and a fine of 1,000 pounds.

They were charged with "endangering security, sabotage and membership of the saboteur organisation Fateh".

## INVESTIGATION

MAHMOUD  
DARWISH



*Write Down,  
I am an Arab,  
My card number is 50,000,  
I have eight children,  
The ninth will come next summer.  
Are you angry?*

*Write Down,  
I am an Arab,  
I cut stone with comrade labourers,  
I squeeze the rock,  
To get a loaf,  
To get a loaf,  
To get a book,  
For my eight children.  
But I do not plead charity,  
And I do not cringe  
Under your sway.  
Are you angry?*

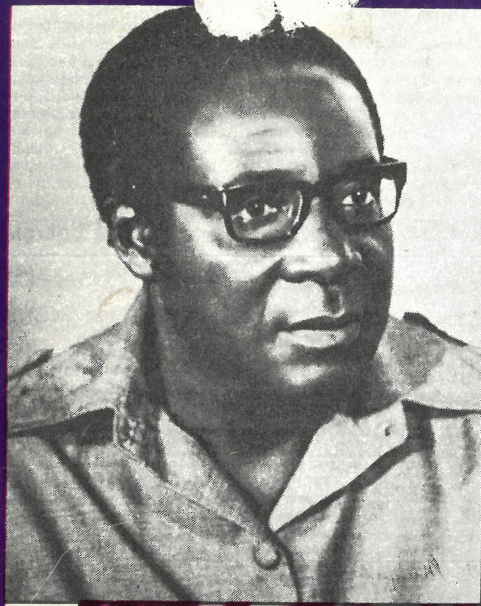
*Write Down,  
I am an Arab,  
I am a name without a title,  
Steadfast in a frenzied world.*

*My roots sink deep  
Beyond the ages,  
Beyond time.*

*I am the son of the plough.  
Of humble peasant stock.  
I live in a hut  
Of reed and stalk.  
The hair: Jet black.  
The eyes: Brown.  
My Arab headdress  
Scratches intruding hands,  
And I prefer a dip of oil and thyme.*

*And please write down  
On top of all,  
I hate nobody,  
But when I starve  
I eat the flesh of my marauders.  
Beware,  
Beware my hunger,  
Beware my wrath.*





**VICTORY FOR THE ZIMBABWEAN PEOPLE**

**P.L.O.  
information  
bulletin**

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# Palestine



30th MARCH:

**THE DAY OF THE LAND**

