

VICTORY FOR THE ZIMBABWEAN PEOPLE

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

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16-31 March 1980

Palestine



30th MARCH:

THE DAY OF THE LAND



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

ISRAEL'S PRE-HISTORIC MENTALITY

Day by day Israel is persuading the world that its mentality is anachronistic and suits well in the good old days before Christ. The Zionists believe that they are alone on this earth, and that they can do whatever they like, as long as they enjoy massive U.S. backing.

For the last 32 years and since the takeover of Palestine by the European Zionist movement, the Palestinians were exposed to the most cruel and barbaric treatment. The indigenous population of Palestine were killed and expelled from their homeland to live in refugee camps in different countries. Sixty percent of the Palestinians were violently evicted from their homes and forty percent still live under Israeli occupation.

The Western world never took notice of the suffering of the Palestinians. Westerners consider the creation of the state of Israel in Palestine as an atonement for their crimes against European Jewry. The Western world supported the creation the state of Israel and helped building up of the Zionist state to become the strongest military force in the Middle East. The Palestinians and the Arabs are still paying the bill for European crimes against the Jews. Due to Western support, Israel is getting more and more arrogant and aggressive.

Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a result of the 1967 war. Since then, the Israelis are pursuing the same policy in those territories as they did in original Palestine. The Israelis build settlements on confiscated

Palestinian lands. They intend to change the demographic character of these territories through new settlers. They change the names of cities and villages and even of the whole area. They torture and kill Palestinian patriots, they expel Palestinians from their own homeland in the hope to decrease the Palestinian Arab population of the country. They destroy houses of Palestinians who oppose the occupation or sympathize with the resistance movement. They don't even care about the feeling of their victims, the Palestinians.

Begin and his clique don't even care about the world public opinion. Begin's recent declarations state that he is strictly against the self-determination right of the Palestinian people.

Begin also opposes the new European approach towards the Palestinian cause. He strictly opposes the creation of a Palestinian state, and of course not to speak about the PLO. The PLO which is recognized by more than 110 states is for Begin a gang of terrorists which has to be liquidated.

Begin's anachronistic mentality fits well in the ancient history, but not in the second half of the 20th century. Our era is characterized as the age of liberation and not of colonialism. Begin cannot convince the world public opinion any more, even his old supporters and sponsors are turning away from him. The civilized nations, once they discover the facts, they cannot support a pre-historic mentality, not even Begin's.

PALESTINE NOTES



Chancellor Kreisky and Chairman Arafat at Vienna meeting

AUSTRIA OFFICIALLY RECOGNISES PLO

Austrian Foreign Minister Willibald Pahr announced on March 13, 1980, that the PLO has been granted official recognition by Austria. This news was published in *Arbeiter Zeitung*, the newspaper of the Austrian Socialist Party, on March 12. The daily added that Ghazi Hussein had been designated the official PLO representative in Vienna. Austria has now become the first West European state to officially recognise the PLO and grant it diplomatic status.

Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky confirmed his country's recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian

people. In a speech broadcast on Austrian Radio on March 13, Kreisky said that this move is consistent with the stand adopted by the Austrian Government towards the Palestine cause and the rights of the Palestinian people, when the Austrian Government in the autumn of 1979 announced at the U.N. that it would grant the PLO full recognition.

Chairman Yasser Arafat received a cable from Chancellor Kreisky in response to Chairman Arafat's letter expressing appreciation for the recent official Austrian recognition of the PLO. Kreisky reaffirmed Austria's defence of just causes in the world, among them the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, and affirmed that the violent reactions issuing forth from some quarters against Austria's recognition of the PLO would not induce him to change his stand. Chancellor Kreisky expressed the hope that he might meet Chairman Arafat in the near future to discuss new developments in the Middle East and international situations.

The PLO representative in Austria, Dr. Ghazi Hussein, welcomed the official recognition of the PLO by Austria, and in a statement called it a constructive step on the road to a just, comprehensive and durable peace that can only be achieved if the Palestinian people, like any other people, obtains its national rights.

On March 14, the mayors of the occupied West Bank welcomed Austria's full recognition of the PLO and the granting of diplomatic status to it. Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf expressed hope that the rest of the European states will follow suit. Hebron Mayor Fahd el-Qawasmeh said that Austrian Chancellor, Bruno Kreisky, undoubtedly recognises the fact that no just and lasting peace can be achieved in the Middle East without the realisation of the rights of the Palestinian people and the PLO. Nablus Mayor Bassam al-Shaka'a, Halhoul Mayor Mohammed Hassan Milhem, al-Bireh Mayor Ibrahim Tawil, Jericho Mayor Abdel Aziz Souweity, Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij and Beit Sahour Mayor Hanna al-Atrash have welcomed the Austrian recognition of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

ARAFAT RECEIVES SEYCHELLES DEFENCE MINISTER

Yasser Arafat on March 3 received the Defence Minister of the Seychelles Republic, who delivered a message from President Albert René. Discussions touched on bilateral relations between the Seychelles and the PLO, and on the current situation in the Middle East and Indian Ocean regions. The meeting was attended by Abu Jihad, member of the Fateh Central Committee and of the General Command of Al-Assifa Forces.

HOLLAND AND NORWAY SUPPORT CALL FOR SELF-DETERMINATION

Farouk Kaddoumi, Head of the PLO Political Department, was officially notified on March 7 by the Dutch and Norwegian Governments of their support for the French-Arab communique issued recently following French President d'Estaing's tour of the Arab Gulf States, which recognised the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

MARCHAIS URGES D'ESTAING TO RECOGNIZE THE PLO

French Communist Party Secretary General Georges Marchais has demanded from President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing the official recognition of the PLO by France. He has also demanded an official invitation for Chairman Arafat to Paris, the party newspaper *L'Humanité* reported on March 15. The paper said Comrade Marchais wrote to President Giscard d'Estaing that an invitation to Chairman Arafat to Paris "would not only enhance the prestige of France in the world, but would be concrete proof that the way to negotiation is open and that possibilities of a political solution to the problem exist."

HONECKER: G.D.R. REMAINS FAITHFUL FRIEND OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

Erich Honecker, President of the State Council of the German Democratic Republic, confirmed that the GDR will remain a faithful friend of the Palestinian people in their struggle to secure their national rights. Comrade Honecker's statement came in a meeting with Abu Ala, the General Director of SAMED Institution, and Issam Kamil, the PLO representative in the GDR, during the former's visit to the Leipzig International Fair on March 10. Comrade Honecker said that the GDR will continue to work for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. The PLO is participating in the Leipzig Fair along with sixty-five other delegations from states around the world.

In a meeting with Israeli Knesset member Tewfiq Toubi (Democratic Movement for Peace and Equality) held in Berlin on March 14, Comrade Honecker also called for an unconditional and total Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Comrade Honecker said that this is the only possible basis for a just peace in the Middle East.

PLO-GDR CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL AGREEMENT

A draft agreement for cooperation in the fields of culture, education, science and health was initiated on March 14 by the German Democratic Republic and the PLO. The agreement was initiated by Abu Ja'afar, representing the PLO Political Department in Beirut, and the GDR Deputy Minister of Education, who was accompanied by a number of officials of the Unified

German Socialist Party. This agreement follows a series of other similar accords. Abu Ja'afar had earlier met with the German Deputy Foreign Minister during his visit to the GDR.

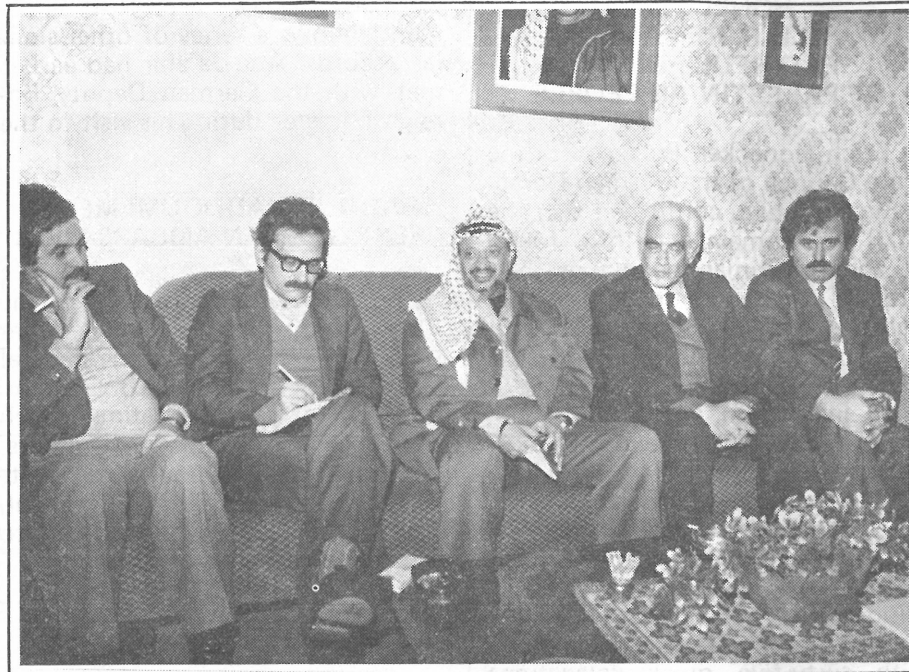
FAROUK KADDOUMI MEETS WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR

Farouk Kaddoumi, Head of the PLO Political Department, met with the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Lebanon on March 11. The meeting, which lasted for one and a half hours, discussed the latest developments of the current situation in the Arab region, especially with relation to the Palestine cause.

PALESTINE EXHIBITION IN TEHERAN UNIVERSITY

A Palestinian traditional handicrafts and art exhibition opened on March 10 in Teheran University under the slogan, "All International Liberation Forces with Palestine." During the opening ceremony, a speech was delivered by a member of the Central Committee of the Iranian Mujahidoun, who stressed the necessity of offering all kinds of support and backing to the Palestinian people and their armed revolution, under the leadership of the PLO. The head of the General Union of Palestinian Students in Iran then delivered a speech in which he affirmed the intention of the Palestinian people to continue their struggle against the Israeli enemy with all possible means. He pointed out that the exhibition is the natural answer to all Israeli claims and attempts to eradicate the Palestinian national character. The exhibition, which is to continue for a week, includes paintings representing the stages of development of the Palestine cause and the Palestinian people's struggle, in addition to Palestinian handicrafts, embroideries and clothes produced by the SAMED Institution.

PALESTINE NOTES



Chairman Arafat receives Alvaro Cunhal (second from right) accompanied by Lebanese C.P. leader George Hawi (right)

ARAFAT MEETS CUNHAL

Chairman Yasser Arafat on March 17 received Alvaro Cunhal, Secretary General of the Central Committee of the Portuguese Communist Party, who was visiting Beirut at the head of a party delegation invited by the PLO and the

Lebanese Communist Party. A reception in honor of the guest delegation was also attended by Chairman Arafat, George Hawi, Secretary-General of the Lebanese Communist Party, and a number of leaders of the Lebanese National Movement and the Palestinian Revolution.

MESSAGE FROM INDIRA GHANDI

On March 12 Chairman Yasser Arafat received the Indian ambassador to Lebanon, who delivered a letter from Indian Premier Indira Gandhi. The letter reiterated India's stand in support of the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. It also dealt with the latest developments in the region.

ARAFAT RECEIVES ZANU DELEGATION

Chairman Yasser Arafat received

a delegation of the Zimbabwe African National Union on March 12. The meeting was attended by Farouk Kaddoumi, Head of the PLO Political Department. The talks focused on the latest developments in the current situation, especially on the Palestinian level. Chairman Arafat congratulated the delegation on the victory of the ZANU movement in the recent elections in Zimbabwe.

ARAFAT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM SOVIET LEADERSHIP

On March 15, Chairman Yasser

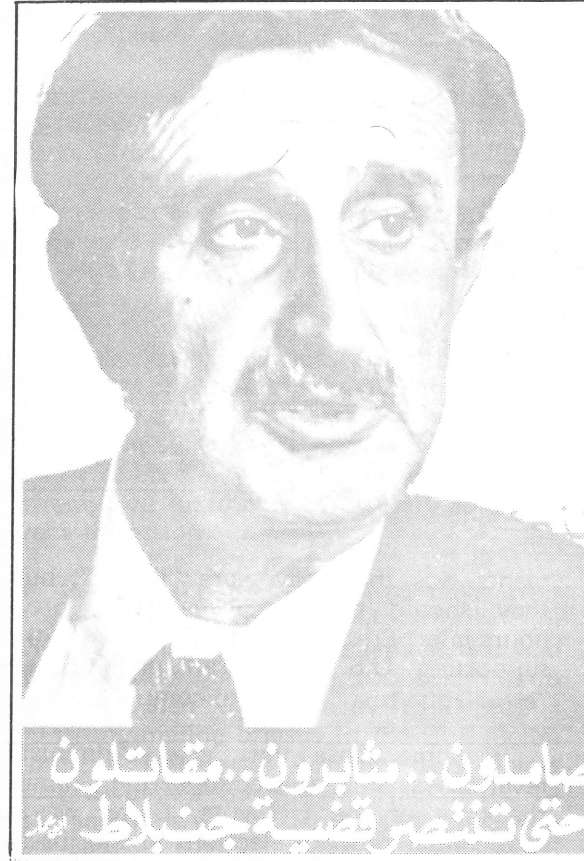
Arafat received comrade Alexander Soldatov, the Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon, in the presence of Abu Jihad, member of the Fateh Central Committee and of the General Command of the Assifa Forces. The Soviet Ambassador handed Chairman Arafat a message from the Soviet leadership concerning recent developments in the region with relation to the Palestine question.

ARAFAT RECEIVES URQUHART

On March 17, Yasser Arafat received Mr. Brian Urquhart, Assistant U.N. Secretary General, who was accompanied by the political Advisor of UNFIL, and Samir Sanbar, Director of the U.N. Information Centre in Beirut. The meeting was attended by Abu Hatem, responsible for the Fateh Foreign Relations Office, and Zuhdi al-Tarzi, the PLO representative at the United Nations. The talks focused on the latest developments of the Palestine cause, and the situation in south Lebanon.

IRISH DELEGATION VISITS PLO

A delegation of the Irish section of Eurabia, a European - Arab friendship association, visited the PLO in Lebanon from March 15 to 25. Rev. Dr. John Chisholm, the journalist Mairin De Burca and the businessman Sean Ryan visited various schools, hospitals, Samed workshops and other institutions of the PLO. They had talks with leading PLO officials, among them Farouk Kaddoumi, Head of the PLO Political Department, and were received by Chairman Arafat. They also toured south Lebanon where they witnessed the barbaric devastations caused by the Israeli bombardments in Lebanese civilian villages and Palestinian refugee camps.



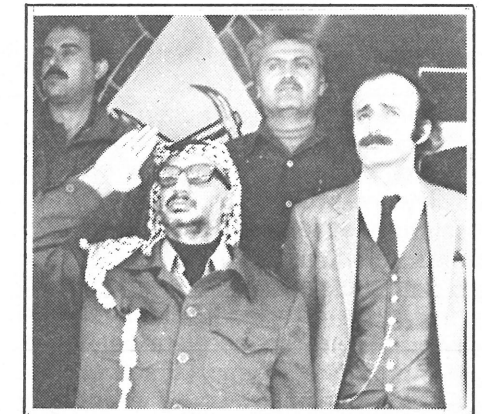
Kamal Junblatt

KAMAL JUNBLATT MEMORIAL: "MORE UNITY, MORE REVOLUTIONARY FIRMNESS"

A memorial on the third anniversary of the martyrdom of the former Lebanese National Movement leader Kamal Junblatt was held in Aley on March 16. The ceremony was attended by Chairman Yasser Arafat, leaders of the various factions of the Palestinian Revolution, leaders of the LNM and the Lebanese National Front, the Bishop of Aley, representatives of the Socialist countries, and tens of thousands of Lebanese and Palestinians. Walid Junblatt, head of the Progressive Socialist Party, delivered a speech in which he reiterated the PSP's and the LNM's full support for the Palestinian Revolution until all the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people are regained, and until Jerusalem is liberated.

Chairman Yasser Arafat addressed the Lebanese and Palestinian people in a message published on March 16 in the daily *al-Watan*, the organ of the Political Council of the Lebanese National Movement. He paid tribute to the strength of the alliance between the Palestinian Revolution and the LNM. Chairman Arafat

began his message marking the third anniversary of the martyrdom of Kamal Junblatt by saying that the revolutionary torch lit by Junblatt has been an inspiration to revolutionaries everywhere and is the most eloquent expression of the joint struggle of the Lebanese and Palestinian people. He added that the Palestinian Revolution reiterates its pledge to remain true to the aspirations of the Arab nation and to safeguard its close links with the LNM, which Junblatt, together with all the progressive forces in Lebanon, built in order that Lebanon should be able to defeat its enemies and that the causes of Palestine and the Arab Nation should be victorious.



Chairman Arafat together with Walid Junblatt, the son of late Kamal Junblatt, at memorial

"On this anniversary", Chairman Arafat said, "the Palestinian Revolution, the LNM and the National Front stand in one trench ready to confront the enemies of Lebanon and Arabism and Palestine." Chairman Arafat added that the steadfastness of the LNM, the National Front and the Palestinian Revolution, of which Junblatt is the supreme symbol, constitutes a force able to stave off the division of Lebanon and to defeat the Israeli attempts to occupy the southern part of the country. Chairman Arafat went on to say that Israel, together with imperialist countries and its lackeys, are now moving on several levels to strike at the resistance of the Lebanese people in order to impose capitulation on them, but the Lebanese people, united with the Palestinian people, would resist all these attempts through thick and thin. "History", he said, "will record in glowing letters this magnificent steadfastness and the noble sacrifices made by the Lebanese and Palestinian people over the long years of struggle against the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy." Chairman Arafat concluded his message with an exhortation to Kamal Junblatt's comrades: "More cohesion, more unity, more revolutionary firmness. Forward on the path of Kamal Junblatt, the leader and teacher of Lebanon, Palestine, and the Arab nation."

NEW "ERRORS" IN U.S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY

Since the Begin government came to power in 1977, a key policy of his right-wing cabinet has been to intensify the attacks on the Palestinian people by escalating settlement and land seizures in the occupied territories. The Begin government has used the cover of the Camp David process to attempt to terrorize Palestinians into emigrating by enforcing an accelerated demographic transformation of the occupied territories that the Zionists hope would eventually nullify even the concept of Palestinian self-determination. Contrary to the Zionists' intentions, the settlement policy has only served to bolster Palestinian resistance and garner further international support for the PLO. But these developments have also engendered an attempt in the imperialist camp to redefine the parameters of a future Palestinian self-determination in a delimited form which would facilitate a consolidation of U.S. encroachment in the region.

U.S. POLICY IN "ERROR"

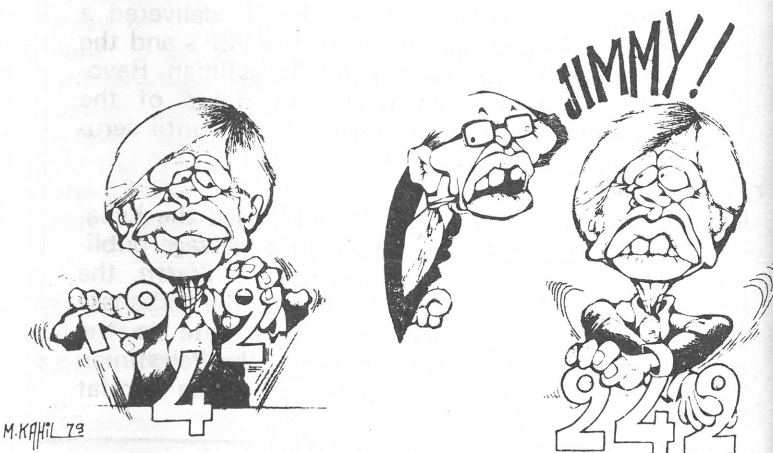
On March 1, the UN Security Council passed Security Resolution 465 which "calls upon the Government and people of Israel to... dismantle the existing settlements and in particular to cease, on an urgent basis, the establishment, construction and planning of settlements in the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem".

UN Security Council Resolution 465 came in response to the February 17 Israeli cabinet decision to settle Jews in the center of the Palestinian city of Hebron on the West Bank. The U.S. UN Ambassador, Donald McHenry, joined in the majority vote, but immediately afterwards expressed an official U.S. reservation, stating that the U.S. did not support the actual dismantlement of Zionist settlements. As of March 1st, the U.S. position on Zionist settle-

ments was that they were "illegal", but that they should not be dismantled. Forty-eight hours later, President Carter announced that the supporting U.S. vote itself on 465 was an "error" due to a "failure to communicate."

In some sense the Carter Administration reversal was a cheap electioneering gimmick. At the time of the UN vote, Carter was facing presidential primary elections in Florida (where Carter lost votes to Kennedy in heavily populated Jewish voting districts), Illinois and New York (where 40% of the electorate is Jewish). Carter's announcement of the reversal came after meetings with Robert Strauss (head of his election campaign and former U.S. Camp David chief negotiator), Sol Linowitz (current U.S. negotiator on so-called Palestinian "autonomy"), and the Israeli ambassador to the U.S.

But behind the seeming confusion over how the U.S. should vote in the UN on questions concerning Palestinian rights, is the general confusion in imperialist policy in the wake of the basic failure of the Camp David strategy. Camp David has been aborted by a consistent



Palestinian and Arab national resistance to the betrayal of their national rights and by the new anti-imperialist consolidation in the Middle East region triggered by the Iranian Revolution.

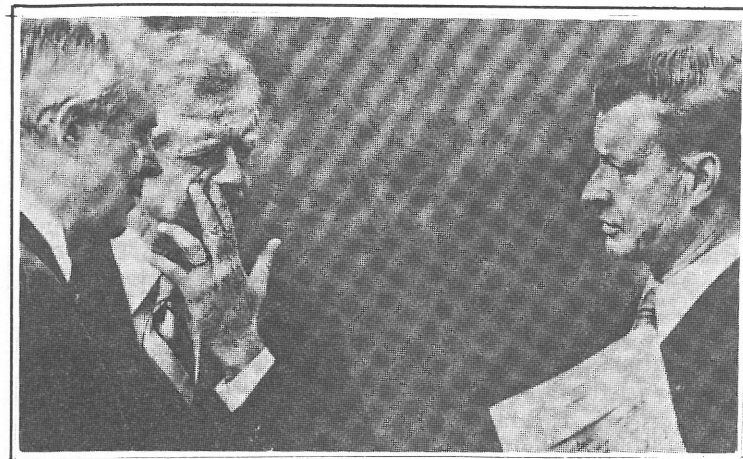
Above all, the Carter Administration would like to forestall the repercussions of the assured breakdown date of the Camp David "autonomy" talks on May 26, until after the U.S. presidential elections in November. Despite the seeming confusion in U.S. policy represented by the UN vote, the U.S. is set on enlarging the arena of imperialist domination in the Arab region while it temporarily attempts to assure a regional stalemate on the question of Palestinian national rights. At least one consistent element in current U.S. Middle East policy is that whatever formula the U.S. concocts to remedy the failure of its Camp David strategy, the U.S. will attempt to impose it by military threat or by direct aggression.

To stress this point, only two days after Carter's announcement of the U.S. "error" on the UN vote, the Defense Department declared that the U.S. was sending more supply ships to the Indian Ocean to be ready to deploy a 10,000-strong marine brigade in the Gulf region this summer. The Carter Administration wants Congress to pass a \$3 billion program for 14 such storage ships, which Deputy Defense Secretary W. Graham Claytor described on March 5 as having the capability of being stationed "in the vicinity of an emerging crisis... ready to deliver equipment very rapidly in a wide variety of ports... to aid an ally or to reinforce our own airlifted or amphibious forces."

ZIONISTS MOVE AHEAD ON ANNEXATION

While U.S. Middle East policy has been weakened by the objective collapse of Camp David and its resulting indecisions on how to grapple with the Palestinian question, the Begin government has wasted no time in taking advantage of its imperialist ally's bungling. The Israeli cabinet has moved forward towards implementing some of the more extreme schemes for an intended Zionist annexation of the occupied territories. For the time being, the Begin cabinet has let the issue of settling Jews in Hebron sit on the back burner by not setting a go-ahead date. But seeing how easily the Carter Administration could backtrack under pressure in an election year, the Begin cabinet used the vote on 465 as the right time to escalate another favorite Zionist project: the encirclement of Arab Jerusalem.

UN Resolution 465 specifically included Jerusalem as being targeted for settlement dismantlement. Since 1967, various Zionist governments have tried to create a de facto annexation



Carter with Vance and Brzezinski
who is to be made the scapegoat for the "error"?

of Jerusalem by surrounding its Arab populated eastern sector by a ring of dense settlement blocks which now house about 18,000 Jewish settlers. Immediately following the UN vote, the Begin cabinet ordered the expropriation of 1,000 acres of Palestinian land on the outskirts of East Jerusalem in a final attempt to enforce the complete encirclement of Arab Jerusalem. The Zionist aim is to eliminate the question of who will finally have jurisdiction over Jerusalem out of any future local or international consideration of a Palestinian state. Contrary to Zionist illusions about consolidating annexation, such provocations will be met by strengthened Palestinian resistance and further international isolation.

The Begin government's extreme obsession with expansion in the occupied territories has brought into question the ultimate tenability of Zionism itself by exacerbating internal social contradictions to a crisis point.

There is no basic disagreement between Begin and his domestic "opposition" over Zionist settlement policy itself. A sample criticism of the Begin cabinet decision to settle Hebron came from former Israeli UN Ambassador Chaim Herzog, in the form of an editorial in the *Jerusalem Post* on March 7: "Establishing a few Jewish homes in the center of Hebron would be a very serious mistake both from a security and from a political point of view. However, if the government had quietly set up homes, there would have been a certain logic in the action..."

Along the same vein, on March 17 Israeli Labor Party leader Shimon Peres found the time opportune to pose himself as an improvement over Begin. He held a press conference to dredge up the time worn Labor Party idea of some kind of Zionist confederation with Jordan which would have the purpose of neatly sidestepping the PLO, the very issue of Palestinian self-determination, but would maintain in a new

NEW "ERRORS" IN U.S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY

form the same annexationist framework in regards to the West Bank as that of Begin's wing of Zionism. He held out the bait that some unspecified settlements would be disbanded if he were to come to power, but quickly added; "On the other hand we shall insist that our army and our settlements alongside the Valley of the Jordan will remain intact as they are."

It isn't amongst the so-called Zionist opposition where the contradictions have reached the point of explosion, but within the crazed illogic of implementing Zionist expansionism itself. The amount of government budgetary allocations that are needed to pursue the settlement expansion and the attendant need for maximum military expenditures to protect continual aggression have brought about an economic anomaly faced by no other country in the world: the highest per capita spending on "defense" of any country, the biggest national deficit of any country, budgetary cuts this year in every category of social spending to maintain

the high settlement and military outlays, an inflation rate of 160% and climbing, and finally the almost total dependency on the U.S. to finance the whole undertaking. Part of the emerging crisis for Zionist expansionism is that it has begun to run afoul of even U.S. imperialism's wider aims in the region such as maintaining the U.S. relationship to the flow of Gulf oil. The U.S. would preferably desire at least some crumbs to be thrown to the Palestinians (albeit within an imperialist framework) in order to construct the conditions for a reactionary regional stability. The ultimate foil to continuing Zionist expansion, however, is that the new provocations have served only to strengthen Palestinian resistance in the occupied territories and the ripples of resistance in the territories have begun a resurgence of Palestinian nationalism within the 1948 borders. Zionism's bankruptcy is further reflected in the ever growing international recognition of the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

ENTER WESTERN EUROPE

The effective blockage of the fulfillment of the Camp David strategy by Zionist intransigence has begun to unnerve some of the U.S.'s European allies, who have a more vital dependency on Arab oil resources than does the U.S. In the current context of the Camp David impasse, the PLO has been able to push ahead

with its diplomatic initiatives in Western Europe and meet with a string of successes in moving U.S. allies toward full recognition of the PLO.

But none of the EEC member states have balked outright at U.S. Middle Eastern policy and gone ahead to grant formal recognition to the PLO. After the March 17 meeting in Bonn between West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and French President Giscard d'Estaing, it was disclosed that there was agreement in the EEC to unveil a new common Middle East declaration in the spring — but not until after the May 26th deadline for ending the U.S.-sponsored red Camp David "autonomy" talks. To date, no EEC member has been willing to step outside the Camp David framework.

There has been an absence of U.S. criticism of recent European proclamations about Palestinian "self-determination," which gives an indication that there is probable co-ordination between the EEC and the U.S. in the recent European moves. There is evidence within U.S. political circles that a new Camp David is in the making. On March 19, the U.S. announced that Carter had summoned Begin and Sadat to Washington for separate consultations in early April for one last ditch effort to breath life into the "autonomy" talks. But Carter's new efforts to save the "autonomy" scheme are almost certainly in vain. In this event, the U.S. is prepared for a new Camp David, but one which broadens the scope to include European groundwork in probing alternative Palestinian options.

The U.S. might try to modernize its traditional commitment towards old-styled settler Zionism in the direction of a more comprehensive neo-imperialist approach in the region. This would, of course, include a somewhat face-lifted Zionism, based more on economic hegemony, and try to absorb a delimited Palestinian "self-determination", provided all is kept under overall U.S. regional predominance. Such an "enlarged Camp David" would be aimed to rescue U.S. strategic and military interests in the region, and to intensify monopolist exploitation of Arab oil, capital and markets.

A recent spate of articles suggesting this new approach have recently appeared in winter issues of American foreign policy journals. Representing this trend was an article by George Ball in the winter issue of *Foreign Affairs*. Ball, who is a former U.S. Under Secretary of State and former Permanent U.S. Representative to the UN, sees the substance of a future Palestinian "self-determination" including: "...the demilitarization of a new Palestinian state for at least an agreed term of years while peaceful relationships develop, elaborate technical arrangements for surveillance that will assure Israel against the possibility of surprise attack, and even the

possible establishment of an American military presence in the area."

The Carter Administration has clearly been preoccupied with the last part of Ball's "self-determination" proposal, as it has been recently scouting for military bases in Oman, Egypt, Somalia, and Kenya, and strengthening the U.S. naval presence in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf. The EEC states have at present been given the role more suited to them — which is to coax forward a demilitarized Palestinian "self-determination".

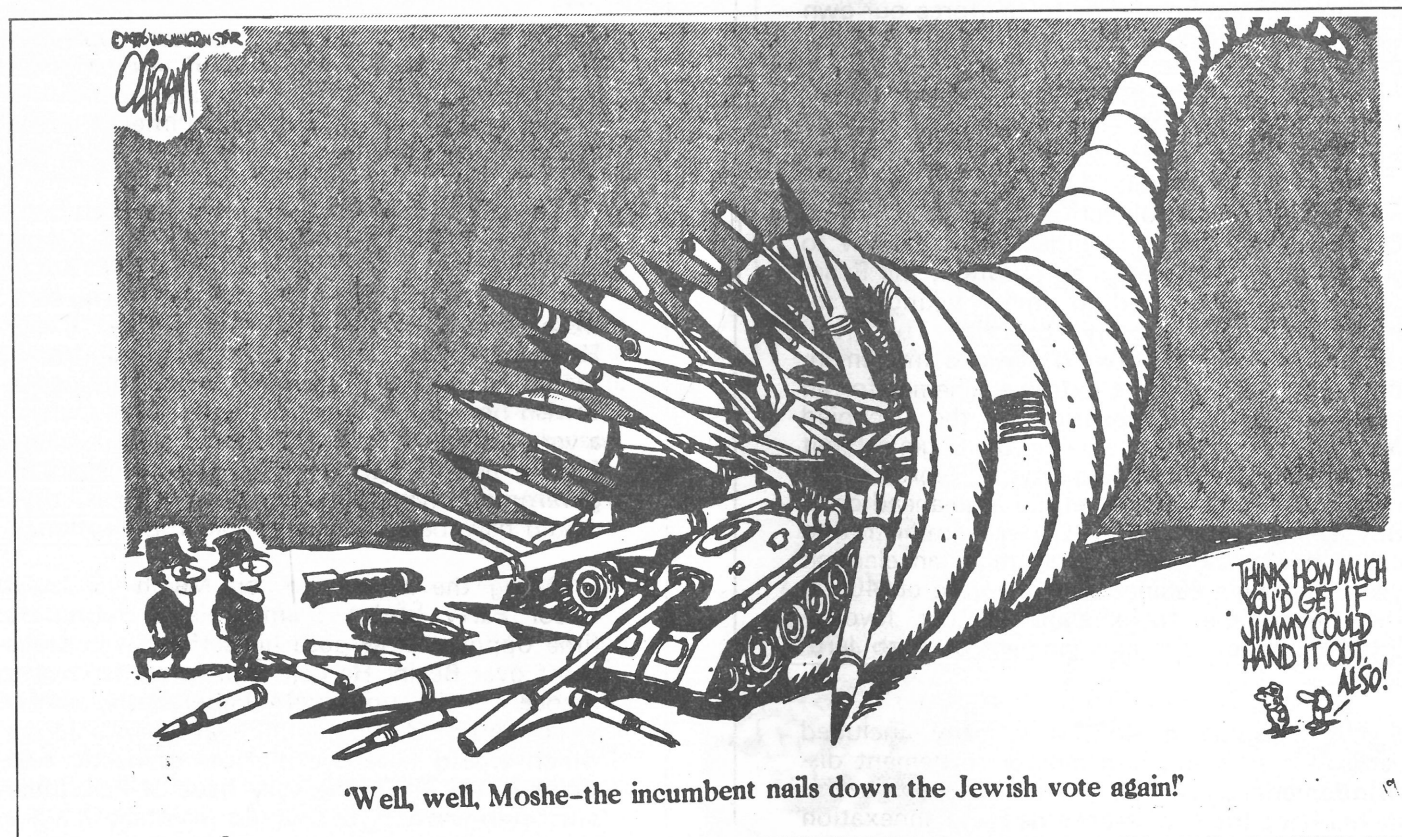
U.S. "quick strike" force training for intervention in Middle East



PLO SAYS "NO"
TO CARTER'S MANEUVERS

Whatever the European and American illusions are about trying to devolve what they think can be internationally presented as an operable Palestinian "self-determination" to suit their own regional ambitions, the Palestinian people and the PLO will not bow to a distorted scheme designed to replace their full rights to return to their land and full sovereignty. Commenting on Carter's disavowal of the U.S. UN vote, PLO Official Spokesman Abdel Muhsin Abu Maizar said that it was "an eloquent testimony to the fact that the Palestinian people cannot expect anything positive from the U.S." Regarding the recent European developments, the PLO central organ, Filastin al-Thawra, stated in an editorial on March 9: "We see hesitation, caution and measured statements in a context which demand nothing short of total and unequivocal clarity."

Finally, when Carter announced just before the UN vote of March 1st that he would never accept a Palestinian state nor recognize the PLO, Chairman Yasser Arafat replied: "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 favors... The blood of the Lebanese and Palestinian fighters will decide the fate of the Palestinian state, not Jimmy Carter."



The U.S. tribute to be paid to Israel in election years...

IN DEFIANCE OF WORLD OPINION
AND THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL:

ISRAELI LAND THEFT; MORE SETTLEMENTS IN JERUSALEM

On March 1, 1980, the U.N. Security Council approved a resolution condemning Israeli settlement practices in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, which was mentioned six times. The resolution stated that the Security Council:

— Determines that 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 thereof, have no legal validity and that Israel's policy and practices of settling parts of its population and new immigrants in those territories constitute a flagrant violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war, and also constitute a serious obstruction to achieving



"Peaceful" settlements encircling Jerusalem

a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

— Strongly deplores the continuation and persistence of Israel in pursuing those policies and practices and calls upon the government and people of Israel to rescind those measures, to dismantle the existing settlements, and in particular to cease, on an urgent basis, the settlement, construction and planning of settlements in the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem.

— Calls upon all states not to provide Israel with any assistance to be used specifically in connection with settlements in the occupied territories.

U.S. DOUBLE GAME

The United States supported the U.N. resolution when it came to a vote on March 1, but two days later Carter disavowed his approval of the vote and said that it had been an error resulting

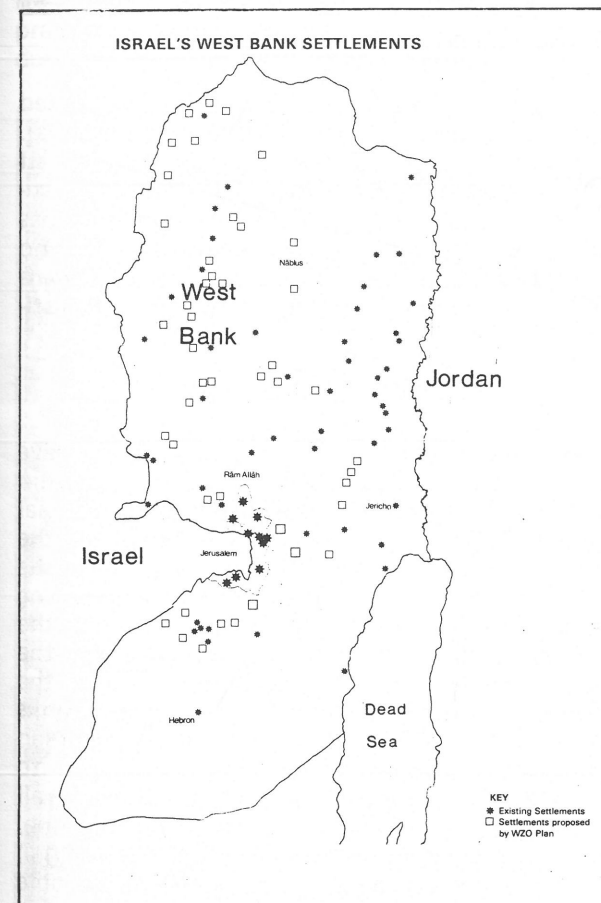
from a "failure of communications." It is the same old game that the United States has been playing for years to support Israel's expansionist plans. America regularly issues statements about how Israel should stop building settlements while at the same time giving Israel billions of dollars in assistance every year.

ZIONIST REACTION

The Israeli government rejected the United Nations resolution, and Begin called it "a barbaric fantasy" and a "repugnant demand". He declared before the Knesset, "under no conditions shall we accept it, or any part, sentence, paragraph of it. It is not binding upon us." In order to mislead world public opinion, the Israeli government postponed discussing the implementation of settlement in Hebron, approved "in principle" in February, and Israeli Television reported that the "Israeli Cabinet has postponed a controversial debate on settling Jews in the all-Palestinian city of Hebron." By postponing settlement in the heart of Hebron, Israel intends to divert the attention of the world from its real intentions.

On March 11, 1980, the Israeli government took a decision to seize Arab land to complete the encirclement of Jerusalem, in clear violation of the above mentioned U.N. resolution. Reuters reported on March 12, 1980 that "the Israeli government Tuesday disclosed plans to seize a large tract of Arab land near Jerusalem to build a new residential neighbourhood," and added, "Finance Ministry sources said an order signed Monday night by Finance Minister Yigael Hurwitz authorized expropriation of 1,100 acres (450 Hectares) north of Jerusalem on land conquered by Israel in the 1967 war." By establishing new Jewish suburbs, the Israelis will attempt to join Neve Ya'acove to the rest of Jerusalem. Neve Ya'acove is currently eight kilometers from the nearest Jewish neighborhood on French Hill. The Israelis hope to gain tighter control over the Palestinian Arab areas of Jerusalem, by erecting a demographic wall between them and the rest of the Arab West Bank.

The Jerusalem land seizure demonstrates that Israel will persist in its Zionist expansion policy. The Palestinians, the legitimate owners of Palestine, must redouble their efforts to stop Israel and regain their national rights. In this struggle they have the bulk of world opinion on their side.



30TH MARCH:

THE DAY OF THE LAND



Palestinian agricultural land near Deir Hanna, Galilee, to be seized for Zionist settlements

Ever since the glorious "Land Day" uprising in March 1976, the Palestinian people have joined in the annual celebrations of the "Day of the Land" on March 30th. Those living in the 48-occupied heartland of Palestine, together with those in the 67-occupied West Bank and Gaza territories, and all the refugees waiting in the Arab countries and all over the world in exile, close their ranks around the central question of the Palestinian cause: the fight for the land, the defense of the Palestinian peasant's land, the Palestinian people's homeland, the land of the Palestinian nation and state. Nowhere else in the world does an outmoded colonialism backed by U.S. imperialism so stubbornly continue to drive people out of their private property. Yet Zionism continues to drive the Palestinians from their land, which they have possessed and cultivated for millennia.

In 1948, the great majority of our people were uprooted from their towns and villages by Zionist mass terror. But the depopulation specialists of the state of Israel have never been satisfied with the expropriation and seizure of the lands of those who were expelled in 1948, and during the large-scale aggression in 1967. They have pursued a systematic plan aimed at confiscating the lands of those who remained.

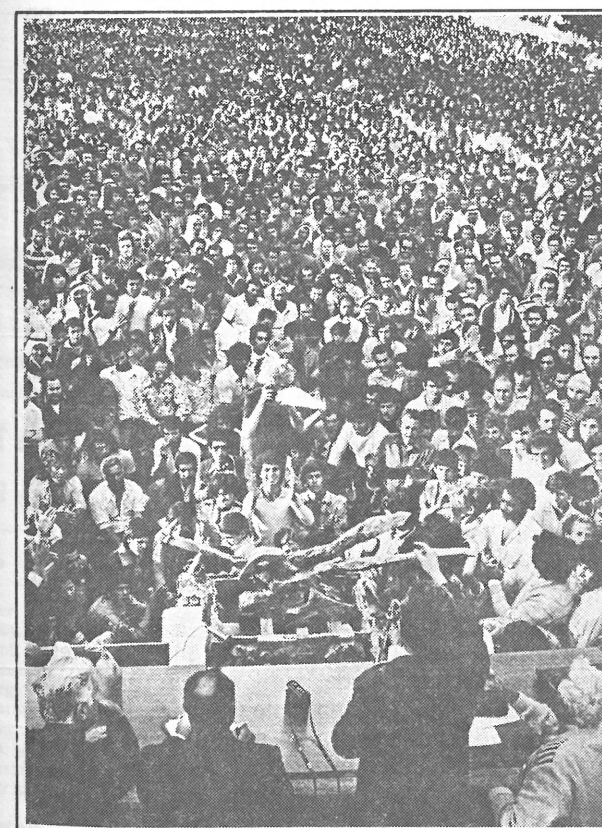
By 1960, the area of land confiscated exceeded one million dunums (one billion square meters). By the end of 1976 it stood at one and a half million dunums. Ever since the Begin government came to power in 1977, not one day has passed without new land "seizures"; and no pretext has been too absurd to serve as a means to further strangle Arab agriculture and Palestinian villages and towns.

ARAB "MINORITY"

However, all the racist Zionist measures have failed to extinguish the Arab "minority" within the Israeli state and to eradicate their national identity. On the contrary; parallel to the upswing of Palestinian national resistance in the 67-occupied territories and in the neighboring Arab countries, and to the intensification of the PLO's political struggle, the remnants of the indigenous Palestinian population inside the 48-occupied heartland have closed their ranks for national survival. Meanwhile, the Palestinian "minority" inside "Israel" has risen again to 574,000, i.e., over 15 percent of the overall population. In the Galilee in northern Palestine, the Arabs once again form a majority (of 60%) and are expected to reach 75% in the foreseeable future.

Zionist strategists have reacted with panic to this development. They are trying to escalate their land theft programs and settlement activities in order to strangle the Palestinian Arab population centers. Shumel Toledano, at that time Prime Minister Rabin's "Advisor on Arab Affairs", declared: "We have to exert all efforts possible to execute the plan of settlement in Galilee without ado and without Arab opposition. But if we take into consideration the priorities, I believe that Jewish settlement in Galilee is more important than fear of Arab opposition." (Israeli newspaper "Maariv", November 14, 1975) And Knesset member Yosef Srid admitted: "I am afraid the Jews will become a minority in Galilee and the Arab population of the region will demand self-rule, for Galilee has not been in the hands of Israel since creation, and it is most probable that the question of Galilee will be submitted for discussion in the final agreements, if it is not Judaized at once." ("Davar", March 14, 1975)

The government of Prime Minister Begin has responded to the recent UN Security Council resolution calling for a halt to Zionist land theft practices by announcing the seizure of 4,500 dunums of Arab land in the environs of Jeru-



Land Day rally in Nazareth addressed by Mayor Tawfiq Zayyad

salem, in a drive to tighten the Zionist grip around the Holy City and to bring more Jewish immigrants and settlers in.

However, it is clear that the struggle of the Palestinian people for their land will eventually force the collapse of Zionist megalomania. The Palestinian struggle reveals the basic futility, in historical terms, of the Zionist enterprise to establish an exclusively Jewish racist and expansionist entity in the heart of the Arab world. A clear indication of this was given in 1976, when bloody riots occurred in "Israel" itself during the "Land Day" events. The riots occurred among those Arabs in the Galilee and the Triangle, whom the Israeli authorities since 1948 had declared a "minority" within the Zionist state, and whom they tried to extinguish or "Israelize" by all means.

The so-called "Israeli Arabs" are subjected to a premeditated policy of neglect and belittlement. The number of their schools has been restricted. Teachers dedicated to their people's cause have been prevented from practising their profession. Arab students in Israeli universities form a mere 2.2 percent of the total number of students, whereas Arab citizens in the Zionist state form over 15% of the total population. The villages and towns in which there is an Arab majority are denied development funds. Arab citizens and inhabitants are prevented from building new houses to keep up with the Arab population's growth rate, which is among the highest in the world. If Arabs construct some kind of shelter on their own lands, they face demolition measures executed under the protection of Zionist laws.

The immediate factor which triggered off the Land Day events in 1976 was a decision taken by the Zionist authorities in late 1975 to expropriate 20,000 dunums (20,000,000 m²) of land from Arab owners in the Galilee. At that time, following the signing of the Second Sinai Disengagement Agreement in September 1975, the Zionists also intended to exploit the successes they had gained from Sadat, with the help of the U.S., on the road towards a separate pact. Moreover, with the PLO tied up in the U.S./Israeli-instigated war in Lebanon, the Zionists felt they could go ahead with further expansion and depopulation measures against the Arabs inside Israel.

UNANIMOUS RESISTANCE

However, the Zionists met an unexpected

"DAY OF THE LAND"

upsurge of Palestinian mass resistance on all levels:

Even before the "Land Day" events in the Galilee, in early 1976, widespread popular unrest took place in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. On the surface, the unrest and protests were triggered by a provocative Israeli government measure in early February 1976 allowing Jews to pray in Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem — another step towards the Judaization of the occupied territories. The Israeli occupation troops reacted with incredible brutality to the first protests. The Palestinian masses answered with daily mass demonstrations in Jerusalem, Nablus, Ramallah, al-Bireh and Gaza. Mass beatings, arrests and curfews imposed on the main towns did not succeed in quelling the riots, nor did the brutal murder of 3 demonstrators in Jerusalem in mid-March.

With this as a backdrop, together with the simultaneous escalation of the war against the Palestinians in Lebanon, the "Conference for the Defense of the Land", which had been organized by the "Israeli Arabs" in the Galilee in October 1975, decided to declare a general strike for the 30th of March, 1976 in protest against the latest Zionist land seizures and settlement plans. The Israelis tried by all possible means to foil the "Day of the Land" strike. Workers were told that they would immediately lose their jobs if they dared to go out on strike. The Israeli authorities threatened the mayors of the Arab communities with reprisals if they would not call off the strike. They even created the impression that they were about to reassess the question of the land confiscation. Agents tried to split the movement. All was of no avail. The "Israeli" Palestinians unanimously stuck to their strike decision, as their first organized expression of uncompromising resistance to the Zionist state since 1948.

Now, the Israelis switched to blunt terror and massacre.

The brutal attack on the Arab towns and villages, on Sakhnin, Deir Hanna, and Nazareth, had already started the evening before the general strike on March 29. Israeli frontier guards and police squads, under the cover of a suddenly imposed curfew, chased and beat up any Arab they could get hold of, broke into houses, destroyed the interiors and arrested hundreds of civilians. They stormed the house of Mayor Tawfiq Zayyad in Nazareth, and beat members of his family. By midday of March 30, the number of murdered people had reached four, among them the 24 year old Subhia Kassem Shawarma from Sakhnin, with dozens wounded. The Palestinian masses — "Israeli citizens" — resisted with all means at hand. They hurled stones from the roofs of the houses. They threw primitive molotov cocktails; women even poured boiling oil on the Zionist storm troopers. The Arabs even tried to attack one of the nearby Zionist settlements, Carmiel. The Israelis were unable to break the resistance; and worse for them, the political impact was catastrophic. The front of the Palestinians in the Galilee stood unwavering and united, and has kept this unity until today. Moreover, the Galilee Land Day events spread into the '67-occupied territories, where the unrest broadened into a general uprising against the Zionist occupation and settlement policy, an uprising which went on throughout all the summer of 1976.

ZIONIST FAILURE

The provocations of the Zionists in the Galilee and in the occupied territories in 1976 and ever since must be seen in the context of their continued attempts to liquidate the Palestinian people and their national cause. These attempts were especially fostered by the U.S.-Sadat steered Second Sinai Disengagement Agreement in late 1975, which led the way against a just and comprehensive peaceful solution, and ended up with the Camp David plot. All these policies have so far failed. On the contrary, the allegedly "Israelized" Arabs in the Galilee in 1976 escalated their resistance and not only foiled the Zionist schemes in the Galilee, but gave an unexpected boost to their brothers under concerted pressure in Lebanon and elsewhere. In turn, the villages and towns in the 67-occupied territories, as well as all the Palestinians and Arabs outside, took up the movement of their brothers in the Galilee. Today the "Day of the Land" has become a magnificent symbol of unanimous Palestinian and Arab resistance against Zionist aggression, occupation and land theft.

"LAND DAY" 1976:

The New York Times

"THREE WORKERS WERE BURNT TO DEATH"

—NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1979—

HURRICANE STRIKES ISLANDS OFF GEORGIA WITH SOME DAMAGE

"With a fellow correspondent, I have seen the injuries inflicted by troops and police on Arabs who said they were among 60 rounded up from two coffee-houses in the village of al-Tur; we have also interviewed people who saw the arrests, and a doctor who treated broken bones. Two witnesses corroborated that the arrested Arabs were ordered out of the coffee houses by Israeli troops who 'bundled them with kicks and blows into two troop carriers.' They were taken to an interrogation centre and 'without even being asked their names, were lined up against a wall and beaten for more than an hour by troops with heavy batons.' During the two days they were held, they were brutally beaten on three separate occasions. Many arrested Arabs could prove that they had not joined in the demonstrations. 'One of the men suffered a broken collar bone as well as severe bruising, others had broken fingers which they say were hit by clubs as they stood with hands against the wall. Several stripped off to show purple bruising down the back, persisting a week after the attack, and one had bruising of the genitals.... The disturbing implication... is that suspected demonstrators can expect such treatment, without interrogation.'"

The Sunday Times, March 28, 1976

"The Israelis are facing serious Arab demonstrations both in the occupied West Bank and in Israel itself. In the West Bank, the wave of protests which began early last month against Jewish settlers and against the possibility that Jews might be allowed to pray on Jerusalem's Haram al-Sharif, has gained momentum. The protests, the Israelis acknowledge, are spontaneous and have several causes. Arab anger will gain momentum from the shooting on Wednesday of an 11-year-old boy during riots in Bethany. And a new cause for protest may be the report this week that three Gaza workers were burnt to death in a small Tel Aviv factory locked from the outside; sleeping overnight in Israel is illegal but suits both the workers and the Israeli employers, who thus avoid the need to obtain work permits."

The Economist, March 20, 1976

"The popular committees in the towns of Galilee that called for the 'Day of the Land' on March 30, made the following appeal: 'The Arabs in this country will not

relinquish what is left of their land, and will defend it with all their might... They will not be intimidated by the threats of the authorities. They will not be deterred by the lies propagated by the information media to disfigure our just struggle. The authorities pillage the land and restrict the means of our livelihood, transforming our people into a reserve force in the labour market and our villages into night spots. They do not want us to protest against all this, but throw accusations at us... It is they who jeopardise relations between the people by refusing our right to a dignified life on our land... by falsifying reality and provoking incitement against us because we want to preserve our land..."

al-Ittihad, March 26, 1976

"Mayor Tawfiq Zayyad, giving reasons for the latest disturbances, stated: 'It was a clear-cut protest against both the land expropriations and the policy of national oppression and discrimination that has been carried out against the Israeli Arabs for 27 years.'"

New York Times, March 31, 1976

"The Arab uprising in Galilee began on the eve of a general strike called to protest the expropriation of Arab land in Galilee by the Israeli government. In retaliation Israeli security forces fired into crowds and beat Arab villagers indiscriminately.... Six Arabs were killed, about 70 persons were wounded and 300 Arabs were arrested. The incident provoked bitterness among the Arabs, and one said: 'When we tried to take the wounded to the hospital, the police held up our cars at a road block.' One Israeli officer, who was in charge of the counter-demonstration forces yelled: 'The blood of Jews in Israel does not come cheap,' at which his soldiers opened fire, killing three Arabs. Another was later also shot dead by police fire. Some of the harshest Israeli police action occurred in Nazareth, Galilee's principal Arab town. After paying stones were flung at them from the rooftops, Israeli troops raged through the streets clubbing any Arab they could catch. They even broke into the home of Nazareth's recently elected Communist Mayor Tawfiq Zayyad, and beat members of his family. The soldiers also forced many Arabs who had closed their shops in support of the strike to reopen them."

Newsweek, April 12, 1976

Palestine — 17

He urged the movement to attempt to incite alien int

OCCUPATION DIARY

CURFEW IN JALAZOUN CAMP

The curfew clamped on Jalazoun Camp near Ramallah entered its second week in mid-March. The Israeli forces set up a number of checkpoints at the entrances leading to the camp and to its main streets and squares. Several houses were stormed and a number of Palestinian citizens were arbitrarily detained. These measures came after the camp witnessed a number of demonstrations against the Israeli occupation and the normalization of Israeli-Egyptian relations, during which stones were hurled at Israeli units, according to the Israeli newspaper the *Jerusalem Post*.

CONFISCATION OF ARAB LANDS

Palestinian citizens of al-Asakira in the Beit Sahour region have expressed their grave concern over the fate of their lands in 'Enziyeh, Bloul, Oanan, Sakeer, Ghuzlan, Shaab al-Hosh and Shaab Bineid districts. Over 2,000 dunums of these lands were closed off with barbed-wire by the Israeli authorities. Villagers were barred entry to the closed-off area. The Israeli authorities erected buildings there in preparation for establishing a

new settlement. The tribe has appointed a lawyer, Elias Khoury, to defend their right to their lands and sent a protest memorandum to the Israeli military governor concerning the confiscation of their lands.

ISRAEL DECIDES TO DEMOLISH A MOSQUE

Palestinian citizens and progressive Jewish forces in Jaffa recently denounced a decision taken up by the Israeli authorities to demolish Hassan Bek Mosque, the only worship place in al-Manshiyah quarter in Jaffa. Leaders of some 12,000 Palestinian citizens in Jaffa affirmed that they will strongly resist the Israeli measure, which aims to eliminate the Palestinian national identity of the city and to destroy its historical and holy places.

JUDAIZATION OF HOLY PLACES CONTINUES

The President of the Islamic Council of the West Bank, Sheikh Hilmi al-Muhtasib, has confirmed that the Israeli authorities are determined to Judaize the holy places in the West Bank, despite recent international resolutions condemning this move. He told a press conference in Amman on March 8 that the situation of the holy places is of great concern. The Ibrahimi Mosque has been transformed into a Jewish synagogue and Moslems can hardly perform their daily prayers there, because the Israelis sit in the mosque playing various musical instruments to disturb the Moslems. These malpractices are part of an overall plan to Judaize the holy places in the West Bank. He also said that excavations are being carried out next to the mosque, bringing about the collapse of adjacent buildings and homes and forcing their inhabitants to leave the area.

JORDAN TRIES SILENT COME-BACK IN THE WEST BANK

According to recent Israeli reports, Jordan is trying to expand its control over education, economy and interior affairs in the West Bank. Jordan appointed a Ramallah resident as its director-general for education in the West Bank, there are agricultural cooperatives funded by the joint Jordanian-PLO committee in Amman, and the Jordanians are taking a census for the first time in the West Bank. Jordan has obliged all residents to renew their passports and to apply for what it calls a "family book." West Bank residents are divided over what these measures really mean.

Ma'moun al-Sayed, editor of East Jerusalem's *al-Fajr* newspaper, says that any attempt by Jordan to negate the Rabat summit decision that gave the PLO sole authority for the Palestinians will not work out. The Palestinians themselves understand that renewing their Jor-

danian passports does not change and does not decide their own future.

ARAB STATES FUND WEST BANK CITIES

Arab towns in the occupied West Bank will this year receive over four million dollars in aid from a fund set up last year by several Arab states, Nablus Mayor Bassam al-Shaka'a said on March 10. He returned to Jerusalem on March 10 from a two-week tour which took him to several Gulf states at the head of a Palestinian delegation. "The funds will be used for development projects in the West Bank urban centres", the Mayor told reporters.

The Sixth Conference of the Arab Cities' Organisation, Scaco, had started its meeting in Doha, Qatar, on March 3. A delegation, representing Palestinian cities, and several West Bank Mayors attended the conference. Former Mayor of Jerusalem Ruhi al-Khatib delivered a speech in which he adopted the PLO's viewpoint for holding an international conference of solida-

city with Palestinian citizens. He also called on Arab and Islamic states to support the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. Nablus Mayor Bassam al-Shaka'a said that the Palestinian cities under the Israeli occupation are the vanguard in the confrontation with the Israeli enemy. He reiterated that the Palestinian people are determined to continue their struggle and defend their holy places, which are continuously attacked by Israeli settlers.

The conference also condemned Israeli malpractices in Palestinian towns and villages, including attempts to destroy or change their historical character. The conference, which concluded its sessions on March 3, decided to give aid to the Lebanese villages and towns victimized by the daily Israeli aggressions, to support their steadfastness in the face of the enemy.

WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

On March 7, the Family Welfare Organisation in al-Bireh in the occupied territories celebrated the International Women's Day. Speakers called on Palestinian women to stand side-by-side with Palestinian men in the joint struggle to regain their national rights. Another similar celebration was held in Nablus on March 10.

APRIL 17: DAY OF THE PALESTINIAN PRISONER

The National Guidance Committee in the occupied territories has decided to designate April 17 as the Day of the Palestinian Prisoner and to organize a general strike each year on that day. Parents of Palestinian detainees will be visiting their sons and relatives in jail throughout that week. The Committee for the Defence of Palestinian Detainees in Israeli Jails plans to hold a meeting at the office of the Palestinian National Front to discuss various activities in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners. The Israeli authori-



HEBRON REPORT ON OCCUPATION BRUTALITIES

The Hebron Municipal Council issued a communique about the criminal and oppressive Israeli treatment of Palestinian citizens during the twelve-day curfew imposed on Hebron by the Israeli forces last month. The Council reaffirmed its rejection of the aggressive Israeli settlement policy and declared its readiness to defend the Palestinian people's rights, existence and independence by all available means. The communique cited the following Israeli atrocities:

1. Storming Palestinian houses at night, beating people, forcing them out of their houses, holding them for hours in the cold and humiliating them.
2. Closing down of hospitals and pharmacies.
3. Closing down of schools, institutions and municipal departments. Preventing citizens from travelling to Amman and turning back to Amman vegetable and fruit trucks bound for Hebron.
4. Detaining, insulting and beating many Palestinian citizens.
5. Racial discrimination against Palestinian citizens, such as preventing them from carrying out their Friday prayers. Israeli settlers were allowed unrestricted access to al-Ibrahimi Mosque where they damaged the electrical wires and loudspeakers. They were also allowed by the Zionist forces to storm houses of Palestinian citizens and to beat up their residents. Gush Emunim gangs were allowed to stage political demonstrations during curfew hours in Hebron and to hold a conference in al-Ibrahimi Mosque, where they called for aggressive measures against the Palestinian citizens. Checkpoints and barricades were set up at the entrances leading to Hebron and Israeli soldiers forced Palestinian people to walk long distances to their homes.



OCCUPATION DIARY

ties, meanwhile, have declared that they will stop the activities of the Palestinian National Guidance Committee.

ISRAELI HARRASSMENT OF PALESTINIAN STUDENTS

On March 11, the students of Jericho Secondary School for Girls staged a sit-in at the Jericho municipal council in protest against the decision of the Israeli authorities to dismiss Mohammed al-Bat'ha, a

teacher of mathematics at the school. The students appealed to the Mayor to take action to prevent this unjustified dismissal. The Israeli occupation authorities are still continuing their systematic harrassment of students at Bir Zeit University. Every day a number of students are summoned to the military governor's office in Ramallah to receive dismissal notes. Israeli progressive lawyer Felicia Langer, who

represents these students, said she will raise this matter in the Israeli courts.

TRAVEL BAN ON MAYOR SHAKA'A

The Israeli authorities have forbidden Bassam Shaka'a, Mayor of Nablus, to visit the United States and Canada, informed sources in Jerusalem said on March 14. Shaka'a has requested the Israelis to allow him to attend several conferences on human rights in the United States and a conference organized by an Arab group in Toronto, Canada.

ISRAELIS TRY TO LIQUIDATE JERUSALEM SCIENCE COLLEGE

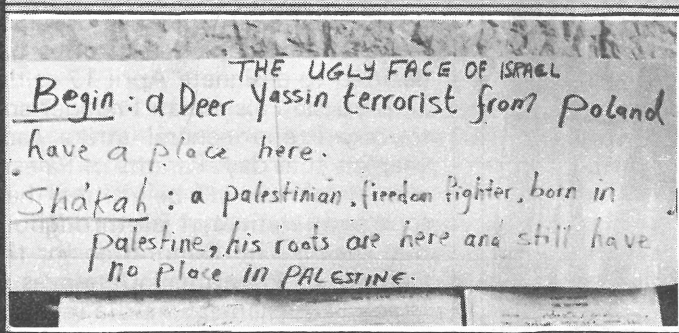
An Israeli decision in early March to close down the Science College in Abu Deis near Jerusalem has provoked a wave of denunciations among Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories.

In Nablus, Bassam al-Shaka'a declared that the decision to close down the College is another link in the chain of Israeli measures against Arab institutions in general, and those in Jerusalem in particular. Al-Shaka'a added that the Israeli authorities are putting obstacles in the way of any new Arab institution in Jerusalem, since such institutions help preserve the Arab character of the city and stress the Palestinian people's right to it. Al-Shaka'a concluded by drawing a link between this measure and the problem of the East Jerusalem Electricity Company, and

with the rest of the Israeli education policy towards the Palestinians. The President of the National al-Najah University in Nablus, Dr. Kayed Abdel Haqq, said that any measure taken against an educational institution is a contribution to the policy of educational deprivation to which the Palestinian people are subjected. Dr. Abdel Haqq added that education is the right of all peoples.

In Hebron, the municipal council on March 17 issued a communique denouncing the Israeli move against the College, describing its closure as part of a deliberate policy of educational deprivation, and as a continuation of the Israeli policy of striking at national institutions. The communique added that the decision to close the College is another attempt to eradicate the Arab nature of Jerusalem. In Halhoul, Mayor Muhammad Hassan Milhem denounced the decision to close the College and called on international organisations and on the UNESCO to stop such violations of the Palestinian people's right to education. In Bir Zeit, Dr. Gabi Baramki, the Deputy President of the Bir Zeit University, also denounced this measure, and pledged to support the Science College. In Bethlehem, the administration of the Bethlehem University also issued a communique denouncing the measure. In Jerusalem, the Union of Workers and Employees of the Jerusalem Electricity Company, the Society of Muslim Youth, and the Student Movement in the Science College, all denounced this measure.

The Executive Committee of the Higher Education Council in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip held a special meeting on March 19 to study the decision to close the College.



Wall poster at Bir Zeit university: the Zionist occupation tries to liquidate Palestinian intellectual opposition



ARMED RESISTANCE

The Palestinians' struggle inside their occupied homeland continued during March. The acts of popular resistance reported below underline the necessity for the national rights of the Palestinian people to be respected and recognized before there can be peace in the Middle East.

ISRAELI CARS DAMAGED IN BETHLEHEM

On March 2, Five Israeli cars were damaged in the occupied West Bank town of Bethlehem. Military sources said that the act apparently was in retaliation for the vandalizing of Arab vehicles in Halhoul earlier in the week. The windshields of these cars were smashed as their owners were shopping in the nearby market.

MILITARY GOVERNOR'S JENIN OFFICE ATTACKED

No. 30/80:

The Palestinian military spokesman issued the following communique on March 3: A unit of Palestinian commandos today planted a timed explosives charge at the entrance of the Military Governor's office in Jenin. The charge was discovered at noon by an Israeli soldier. The building was immedia-

tely evacuated and panic spread among the military officials present there. The charge was dismantled by an Israeli army explosives expert, and the office was thoroughly combed in search of other charges. Following this, Jenin witnessed intensified security measures. Checkpoints were erected and mobile units patrolled the streets of Jenin, while a number of Palestinian citizens were arrested on suspicion of involvement in the operation. Our unit, however, returned safely to base.

TWO PALESTINIAN MILITANTS ESCAPE FROM ISRAELI JAIL

Two Palestinian militants on Saturday, March 8, managed to break out of the Israeli jail in the al-Rouss district of Jerusalem. The Israeli military spokesman on March 10 admitted the escape, and said that Israeli police had sealed off the city and carried out thorough searches. The Israeli police forces also erected a number of checkpoints, while mobile units patrolled the city streets. Israeli Radio, in its Hebrew bulletin, did not reveal the names of the two escaped prisoners. It is worth mentioning that several previous escapes have taken place and succeeded, whereby the escapees resumed their activities against Israeli occupation.

MILITARY VEHICLES ATTACKED

No. 31/80:

A Palestinian military spokesman issued the following communique on March 10: A Palestinian

commando group operating inside the occupied territories planted a timed explosives charge this morning inside a garage for Israeli military vehicles in the French Hill residential settlement in occupied Jerusalem. The charge was discovered by an Israeli settler and the area was immediately evacuated. An Israeli explosives expert was called in, and failing to defuse the device, he detonated it where it was found. The blast caused severe material damage in the vicinity. The Israeli security forces arbitrarily arrested a number of Palestinian citizens, and thoroughly searched the area for other charges. The unit returned safely to base.

TWO COMMANDO ATTACKS IN GAZA STRIP

In operations only recently reported, Palestinian commandos on February 29 and March 2 attacked Israeli security forces in the Jebalia Camp in the Gaza Strip, blowing up the Jebalia police station, and throwing a hand grenade at an Israeli vehicle. The Palestinian Military Spokesman issued the following military communique:

No. 33/80:

First — A Palestinian militant on the evening of Friday, February 29, threw a hand grenade into the Israeli police station in Jebalia in the Gaza Strip. The explosion of the grenade resulted in the killing and wounding of a number of Israeli policemen present inside the station, in addition to damage to the station itself. Second — On the evening of Sunday, March 2, a Palestinian militant launched a sudden assault with grenades against an Israeli military vehicle that was patrolling the central square of Jebalia Camp in the Gaza Strip. The attack damaged the vehicle and injured most of its occupants.

Following these two operations, the Israeli occupation forces launched an arbitrary detention campaign which led to the arrest of dozens of citizens of the Jebalia region suspected of involvement in the two operations. Our militants nevertheless returned safely to their bases.

EXCAVATIONS; DESECRATION OF HOLY PLACES

Under the guise of uncovering Jewish history and Solomon's Temple, the Israeli Military Occupation Authorities initiated a series of atrocious acts at several sites in confiscated Arab quarters within the Wall of the Holy City, especially in areas adjacent to both the southern and western walls of the Haram (Muslim Noble Sanctuary). These excavation works were not meant to uncover Jewish history as they claimed, but rather to cause cracks and the eventual collapse of various buildings housing families, trade centres and other businesses. Naturally, as a result of these measures, all inhabitants of these areas were evicted from their premises. This also served to change the character of that part of the City so that it would eventually be judaized.

Amid this atmosphere of bigotry, prejudice, bitterness and hatred, Israeli Military Occupation Authorities continued with their criminal excavations, turning a deaf ear to protests from the Islamic Council in Jerusalem and appeals from well known and reputable archaeologists.

The Israelis took a number of resolutions and measures which conflict with international law and agreements relating to the preservation of antiquities in areas falling under occupation. Article (32) of the Hague convention of 1954 states the following:

"In case of armed conflict, the state or states occupying territories of another state or states, should refrain from carrying out any excavations for antiquities in the occupied territories."

The excavations which are being carried out in both the southern and the northern sectors of the Haram Wall in Jerusalem deserve special concern and attention because the history of the area covered by these excavations is of supreme importance, both culturally and traditionally to Muslims, Christians and Jews, unlike any other spot in the whole world.

Dame Kathleen Kenyon, Director of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem, and former Professor of Archeology at Oxford University, published an article in the London



Israeli occupation troopers in Jerusalem

Times on August 17th, 1972, in which she stated:

"In June 1972, a number of papers said that Israeli Religious Authorities have carried out excavations close to the southern Wall of Al-Haram in Jerusalem. I have just returned from Jerusalem and can verify and confirm that these press reports were not exaggerated.

"There are rumours that these excavation works shall be continued along the Haram

Wall, where, today, magnificent Islamic buildings, built in the Middle Ages, stand intact. The destruction of such buildings is a terrible crime. It is completely unthinkable and unbelievable that in 1972 those antiquities should be allowed to be destroyed by such excavations. Such excavations were the only way in 1860 to discover Jerusalem and uncover its antiquities. However, today, this method is quite obsolete in a country that has a group of most distinguished archaeologists".

These illegal excavations caused deep concern among Palestinians in Jerusalem, Arab and Islamic states, as well as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization UNESCO.

Following each and every stage of these excavations the PLO and the Jordanian Government hastened to draw world attention by complaining to UNESCO. All the complaints were documented. Arab and Islamic as well as friendly states always supported and backed these complaints during debates. UNESCO showed as much concern as its international status permitted, and carried out investigations whenever it was possible to do so. It managed to delegate its own experts to travel to Jerusalem to investigate charges and report back. During the past decade, UNESCO has passed 12 resolutions condemning Israel for carrying out illegal excavations.

In spite of all this, excavations continue, and the threat to Arab and Islamic cultural and religious property also continues.

ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS ON CONFISCATED ARAB LAND

"We aim to render Jerusalem a Jewish City" said the Israeli Minister of Housing in a press conference held in Jerusalem on February 15, 1971, in which he revealed the settlement plan, initiated since 1948 both outside as well as inside the Jerusalem Wall. The first phase of this plan called for the construction of 35,000 units to house 122,000 new Jewish immigrants.

In spite of Arab protests and complaints, and in spite of successive international resolutions by the world community which condemned Israel and called upon her to stop all such measures and activity, Israel went ahead with implementing the plan during the past decade. The Israeli authorities built sixteen new settlements in place of the ruined and destroyed Arab quarters and villages as well as on lands illegally confiscated or usurped from the Arabs within the Wall and outside it, thus encircling the remaining Arab

inhabitants of the City with fortresses of housing units and settlements, industrial areas and military zones. The remaining Arab inhabitants of Jerusalem were thus contained in a narrow and limited strip of territory.

This also entailed a constant threat to their security and whatever remained of their property and religious shrines.

These settlements include two industrial areas, a military zone, a university and twelve areas containing housing units, one of which is within the Wall, built on the ruins of the four Arab quarters and designed to house 5,000 Israelis instead of the 6,000 Arabs who used to live there. The Arabic language daily paper 'Al-Sha'b', published in Jerusalem, spoke on 22 November 1974 about yet another plan for new Israeli settlements. In an article translated from the Jerusalem Post, 'Al-Sha'b' revealed a plan to build an extension of the previously mentioned sixteen settlements, which would house another 40,000 Israelis. This new plan called for the construction of the new settlements in such a way as to fill the gaps that remained within the previous settlements. It called for the building of an industrial city at Khan Al-Ahmar, which would accommodate 100,000 workers and their families.

ACTS OF AGGRESSION AGAINST CHRISTIANS

Israeli aggression against the Christian religions and Holy places and against Christian communities can be characterised by the following attitudes:

- Disturbing and despising the holy places.
- Continually bringing pressure on persons of the big Christian communities to oblige them to relinquish wide areas of their lands and estates in Jerusalem, either by direct sale or by long term rents.
- Intimidating religious individuals and forcing many of them to evacuate:

With regard to the disturbance of the holy places, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, which is the biggest church in Jerusalem and the oldest in the world, has been exposed during recent years to the following incidents:

1. The Crown of the Virgin Mary was stolen at the end of 1967 by some Israelis.
2. Oil lamps and candles over the Holy Sepulcher in the entrance of the church were smashed on 24/3/1971 by an American Israeli.

EXCAVATIONS; DESECRATION OF HOLY PLACES

3. An attempt was made to steal a diadem mounted with diamonds, standing near the Gol-gatha Cross inside the church of the Holy Sepulcher, by three Israelis at night, who also attacked a Franciscan priest and inflicted injuries on him.

4. The Coptic Convent was subjected on Christmas 1976 to an assault on its properties and monks by a big number of Israeli policemen.

With regard to the appropriation of Christian convents and other properties, Israel in the last years has always endeavoured to annex more and more to its properties in the Holy City. The Christian Church, through continual Israeli pressure, has lost the following important localities:

1. The land of the quarters of Al-Musallabah, Al-Qatamoun, and Karm El-Ruhban (The Orchard of the Monks) which lies between the railway station and King David's Hotel in Jerusalem.

This includes wide areas of lands in west Jerusalem, all of which were rented, according to a reliable source, by the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate to the Israeli authorities for a period of 99 years. Many Israeli dwellings were built on the spot.

2. The German Shneller School, known as the Syrian Orphanage, with a wide area of land and large number of buildings in north Jerusalem was owned by a German charitable society, which was forced to sell it to the Israeli authorities.

3. Lands and buildings of the Russian compound known as Al-Maskobiya, which lies in the centre of Jerusalem and covers wide areas of land and a number of big buildings, including the government hospital, the official law courts, the police headquarters, and the central prison, were relinquished by the Russian church after threats by the Israeli authorities.

4. Lands and various estates, including the buildings of the Fast Hotel in the centre of Jerusalem, were owned by the Armenian Patriarchate in Jerusalem, then sold to the Israeli authorities after threats.

Regarding the intimidation against the Christian clergymen and individuals, many of these were subject to aggression inside their churches and convents during various periods.

Among the most outstanding incidents of aggression, we mention the following:

1. A severe beating against Bishop Basileus, second man in the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate in Jerusalem, committed by two Israelis on 6/2/1973.

2. An attack against the monks of the Coptic Convent on Christmas Eve 1970 by a group of Israeli policemen.

3. Oppression of Christian individuals in Jerusalem has obliged many thousands to leave the country. The following table may throw light upon the subject.

These acts of aggression and their results have alarmed all prominent Christian clergymen, in-



Burnt interior of Al-Aqsa mosque

cluding the Papal Legate in Jerusalem, Archbishop Lagee, who announced that evacuation of Christian Arab inhabitants from Jerusalem will lead to the evacuation of Christianity from the city.

THE "GREATER JERUSALEM" PROJECT

This project ostensibly aims at enlarging the boundaries of the city of Jerusalem, but actually aims at subjecting nine cities, sixty villages and about 250,000 Arabs to Israeli rule.

The Israeli daily "Davar" published on January 30, 1975 the following:

"A high Israeli authority said that the enlarged map of Jerusalem, which has lately been agreed to by the Knesset (Israeli Parliament), and which was drawn up on the initiative of the head of the government, included the following suburb As far as Khan Al-Ahmar to the east, and (Beit Eil) Bitteen village (north of El-Bireh town) to the north, and Hebron (Kiryat Arba' settlement which Israel established after 1968) to the south, the Latroun (Beit Shemesh settlement) to the west. The same authority said that in order to ensure a complete and unified Jerusalem as a capital for Israel, with a Jewish majority, we must decrease our discussion of the problem and that it is not necessary to propose different political solutions, or draw up schemes and suggestions for its solution."

"Davar", on April 14, 1975, also published the following:

"The year 1974 has been notable for the increase and consolidation of Jewish settlement in the new quarters of Jerusalem, which have been built as a belt around the city since 1967, Nabi Jacob, eastern Talbioth — that is near the former residence of the High Commissioner — and Jeela, to the north and south of the Arab village of Beit Jala. The number of new Jewish immigrants who were settled in these quarters during last year amounted to 13,000; thus the number of Jews who settled in Jerusalem during the last ten years is 142,000. Ely Tamir, director of the Jerusalem district, and the south at the Ministry of Integration, declared that Jerusalem absorbs 10% of the total of newcomers."

These are some of the conspiracies disclosed by the Israeli Military occupation authorities, and the aggression it has carried out against Jerusalem and its Arab inhabitants, and against its Arab civilization and Islamic and Christian sacred sites. They are declaring, daily, more Judaizing plans, following by swift action, thus

defying the Arab and Islamic summits and the international and humanitarian conferences and resolutions.

It should be recalled that the United Nations General Assembly, the Security Council, the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council have adopted since June 14, 1967, around twenty resolutions dealing with Israel's violations of human rights in the occupied territories, and violations of Fourth Geneva Convention with regard to the protection of civilians in time of war. These resolutions and decisions, which dealt with the status of Arab occupied territories, applied to Jerusalem as well. The Human Rights Commission, in its Resolution No. 9(XXVII) of 15 March 1971:

"Reaffirming that the Human Rights and fundamental freedoms as provided for in the Geneva Convention relating to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of August 12, 1949, and in other relevant international instruments, fully apply to all the territories occupied by Israel as a result of the hostilities in the Middle East, including occupied Jerusalem.

"Requests the Secretary-General to give wide publicity to United Nations documents dealing with the violations of human rights in the occupied territories, and in particular to the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population in the occupied territories, and to use United Nations media of information in disseminating information on the conditions of the population of the occupied territories, the refugees and displaced persons.

"The same commission looked into the same problem of Israel's contempt and obduracy and adopted Resolution 3 (XXVII) of 22 March 1972 in which Israel's actions in the occupied territories were described as war crimes. In fact, the Commission:

"Recalling its resolution 5 B (XXVII), which considered violations of the Geneva Conventions as war crimes and an affront to humanity.

"Considers that breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention committed by Israel in the occupied Arab territories constitute war crimes and an affront to humanity."

ZIONISM IN PRACTICE

MORE ISRAELI PATROLS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

An Israeli military spokesman announced on March 13, 1976 that the Israeli military command has decided to step up patrols in West Bank towns in order to suppress any national uprising against the Israeli occupation. These patrols will be stationed at what the spokesman described as "flash points" in order to prevent outbreaks of popular resistance, such as the stoning of Israeli vehicles and the setting up of barricades in the streets. Israeli military sources also reported that these new patrols have already been deployed in Halhoul, Hebron and Jalazoun camp as an experimental move before general application of this new measure. The sources added that these patrols are composed of jeeps carrying four soldiers armed with automatic weapons, in addition to a heavy machinegun fixed on every jeep.

ISRAELI AUTHORITIES PREVENT PALESTINIAN MAYORS FROM TRAVEL

The Israeli military governor of Nablus has notified Nablus Mayor Bassam al-Shaka'a of the Israeli authorities' refusal to allow him to travel to the U.S.A. and Canada. Shaka'a had received an invitation from the Palestine Human Rights Committee to participate in a series of lectures in the U.S.A. on the situation of the Palestinian people

inside the occupied territories. He also received an invitation from the Arab Federation in Canada to participate in the latter's conference in Toronto, next May. The Israeli authorities have likewise refused to allow Halhoul Mayor Muhammad Milhem to travel to the U.S.A. and Canada to attend the same meetings.

NEW SETTLEMENTS IN WEST BANK, GOLAN HEIGHTS AND GAZA STRIP

The Israeli authorities are to establish seven new settlements, three in the Ghor region of the Jordan Valley, three in the Golan

Heights, and one in the Gaza Strip. The Israeli daily *al-Hamishmar* reported that the aim of the establishment of the three Jordan Valley settlements, two near the existing settlements of Mehola and Beit Harfa, and one near Jericho, is to close off the so-called Ras al-Sham between the River Jordan and Jericho, in line with the recommendations of the Allon Plan. The Golan Heights settlements are to be named Sakhsoukh, Daboussieh and Issa, and the new Gaza Strip settlement will be established near the Katif settlement complex. Another Israeli daily *"Ha'aretz"* quoted the Head of the Israeli Settlement Agency as saying that these settlements are part of a huge settlement



Israeli settlers can't move without armed protection: Israeli teachers and his pupils in the occupied territories

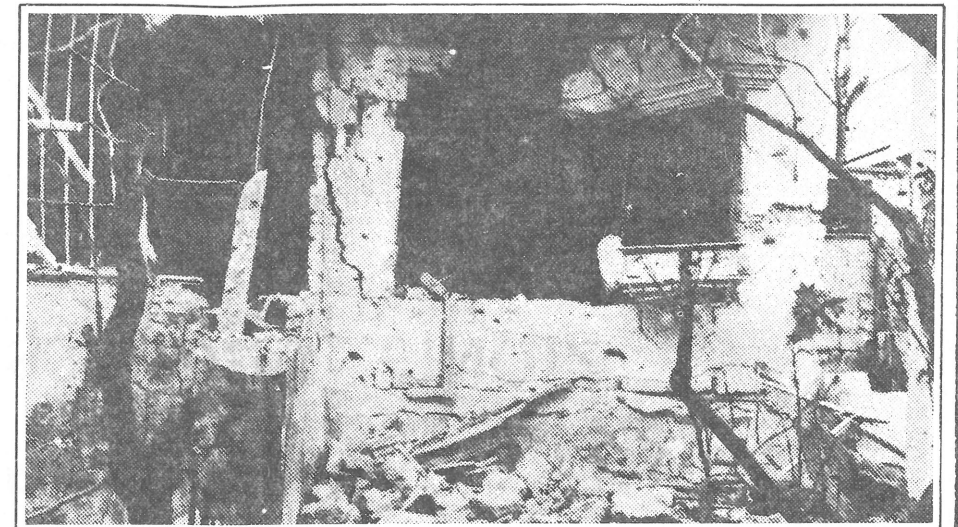
plan in the Arab occupied territories with an allocated budget of approximately IL three billion.

NEW SETTLEMENT IN WESTERN GALILEE

The Union of Israeli Farmers on March 10 began work on a new settlement on land confiscated from Palestinian citizens in Western Galilee. The Israeli daily *"Ha'aretz"* reported that the Israeli Union intends to provide houses for fifty Israeli families in the settlement in the course of the next two months. This settlement comes within the framework of the Israeli policy of Judaizing Galilee through a concentrated settlement campaign.

NEW SETTLEMENT AND ROAD PROJECTS

Zionist authorities began work on confiscated Palestinian land located in the village of Khodr, near Bethlehem, for the establishment of the new urban settlement of "Efrat". The Israelis plan to expand the current nucleus into a settlement of 15,000 dunums. Meanwhile, the Israeli Minister of Agriculture has announced plans to settle two hundred Israeli families in the settlement of Ada, located near Shata'a in the Galilee region. Zionist authorities are currently paving a road from Deir al-Latine, located in Ourtamous near Bethlehem, to Hursh al-Noukta, near the village of al-Taqqous. Another road will be constructed leading to the Dead Sea with a width of approximately 20m. Work has already begun on these stretches which pass through cultivated land belonging to Palestinian farmers.



Three Lebanese children were killed at the Tyre scouts' emergency unit on March 17

ISRAEL SHELLS TYRE: CHILDREN KILLED

When ever Zionism is in a political crisis, it resorts to terrorist activities against south Lebanon. Its aggressive artillery demolishes houses and kills Palestinian and Lebanese civilians. Their aim is to depopulate south Lebanon of both the Lebanese and Palestinians to expand Zionist boundaries. Israeli-directed rightist militias shelled the southern Lebanese port city of Tyre on March 17. Three people were killed and eight wounded. The dead included a nine year-old girl, and three of the wounded are in

serious condition. The official Lebanese National Agency said that "the shelling was directed at the office of the Lebanese Red Cross in the southern city, as well as at the Jarrar Scouts' emergency unit center, which was destroyed. The injured people were civilians who happened to be at the center at the time." It was the third successive day of artillery attacks by the Israeli-directed militias of Saad Haddad, which occupy a 10-kilometer strip of land on the Lebanese-Israeli border.



Weizman visiting his accomplices in South Africa

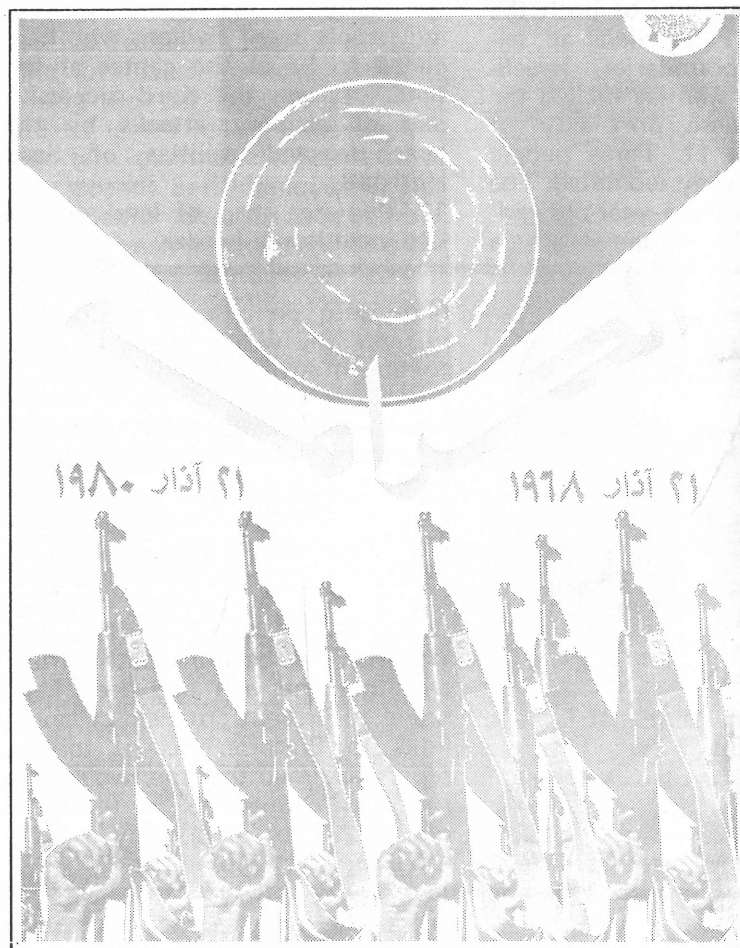
WEIZMAN IN SECRET MISSION TO SOUTH AFRICA

Israeli media reported on March 19 that Defense Minister Ezer Weiz-

man went on a secret diplomatic mission, the week before, possibly to South Africa. News of the trip abroad first was published by the Maariv newspaper, which did not say what country the defense minister had visited. The paper said the visit was shrouded in tight secrecy, and Weizman reported directly to Prime Minister Menahem Begin on March 18 in a four-hour meeting. Israel Radio later reported that Weizman had been in South Africa, and that the visit had been kept secret to prevent criticism of Israeli links to Pretoria. Recent foreign reports claimed that the two countries had cooperated in testing a nuclear bomb, or possibly a neutron bomb, last September.

MARCH 1968 IN KARAMEH,
MARCH 1978 IN SOUTH LEBANON:

ZIONIST AGGRESSION WILL NEVER EXTINGUISH THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE



Poster commemorating al-Karameh battle

In 1948 many Palestinians were forced to leave their lands after the Zionists occupied Palestine. A great number of them left to neighboring Arab countries where they took refuge. After the 1967 war of Israeli aggression, more Palestinians were obliged to leave their homes and lands. A great number of the Palestinian refugees of 1948 and 1967 lived in the suburbs of a small village on the east bank of the Jordan River, al-Karameh. The despair, misery and horror of the diaspora transformed these refugees into revolutionaries and combatants seeking their liberty and the liberation of their land. So early in 1968 a number of Palestinians crossed the Jordan River and carried out military operations inside occupied Palestine, a brave act of defiance in the face of the sophisticated Israeli military machine. The ranks of the Palestinian commandos were swollen with men and women after the defeat of the June 1967 war, which caused the Arab masses to lose faith in the kind of conventional warfare espoused by the Arab states.

The Israelis soon recognized the strategic importance symbolized by al-Karameh, where a new revolutionary spirit was being born. Bursting with arrogance after the success of their June 1967 aggression, the Israelis thought that they were capable of driving the Palestinian refugees to abandon al-Karameh through intensive bombardment of the region. But the Palestinian commandos dug in their heels and intensi-

fied their military actions. This led the Israelis to directly attack al-Karameh in March 1968, in an attempt to erase the nascent Palestinian revolution. But the vaunted Israeli army was repulsed after two days of heavy fighting. The remains of eleven Israeli tanks could be seen in the streets of al-Karameh, and an American expert estimated that Israeli casualties numbered more than 500. It was the first time that the Israelis had not faced a traditional army, but a group of militants who through their liberation struggle confronted the advanced technology of the Israelis.

The battle of al-Karameh marked a decisive turning point in the political equation of the Middle East. The Palestinians had decided to stand face to face in front of the Zionist enemy without the help of the Arab governments. Although the Palestinian revolution lost 100 of its best cadres at al-Karameh, it gained the respect and assistance of the Palestinian and Arab masses. The battle has made the Palestinians a necessary party in any solution to the Palestinian problem.

INVASION OF SOUTH LEBANON 1978

Ten years after al-Karameh, the Israelis tried on a far larger and more systematic scale to play the same game once more against the Palestinian people and their armed resistance. Israel launched a broad attack against south Lebanon on March 15, 1978 with the intention of exterminating the Palestinian resistance.

The Israelis mobilized for this purpose around 32,000 soldiers backed by heavy artil-

lery, rockets, tanks and air and naval forces on a 100-kilometer front extending from the coast along the Lebanese border to Mt. Hermon. Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan declared that Israel would pursue the Palestinians everywhere, and David Elazar, the former Israeli Defense Minister, declared on the first day of the invasion that it would be only a matter of hours before the "terrorists" would be destroyed. But their dream was not realized and Israel was forced to call for a ceasefire after eight days.

For an entire week Israeli artillery, rockets, naval warships and jets backed their infantry advancing towards Tyre, a principal town in south Lebanon. The Israeli jets savagely bombed civilian targets in Tyre, Rashidiyeh camp, al-Bass camp and Burj al-Shemali camp, where Palestinians live. The Israeli forces used lethal US-supplied cluster bombs indiscriminately against men, women and children.

After fierce battles, a Radio Israel correspondent in south Lebanon reported that the "combing operations" were extremely difficult. He also admitted that the Israeli chief of staff, General Gur, had noted that it was not easy to complete the operation due to tough resistance being faced. The Israelis suffered considerable losses in their invasion of south Lebanon. But our Palestinian people and the Palestinian revolution proved once more that they are ready for any attack against them. They will struggle for legitimate national rights and the liberation of their homeland from Zionist occupation. The Palestinian Revolution will surely triumph, backed by progressive and anti-imperialist forces all over the world.



Over 2,000 civilians alone were killed during Israeli March '78 invasion

SOUTH LEBANON:

MILITARY AGGRESSION FOLLOWS CAMP DAVID

Most of the houses are deserted; some are in ruins. The huge, rich meadows are filled with hoofprints of oxen. The fruit trees are missing the peasants' competent and tender care. As the Israelis' terror planes swoop past, the flowers seem almost to bend their heads towards the ground to protect their roots, which the most violent winds were never able to tear out. However, the fighters of the Palestinian Resistance and their brothers in struggle from the Lebanese National Movement are able to carry on despite all this artificial, transitory lifelessness. They try, by their presence, to infuse life into beings threatened every moment with death, or at least with dispersal, exile, poverty and misery.

On the long road to the noble castle at Arnoun, we stopped at Nabatiyeh. In a badly heated office, in spite of the fierce cold outside, Nagib, one of the military commanders of the region, told us: "This is the first day without Israeli shelling. The day before yesterday, on 7 February, the Israelis and their puppets, Saad Haddad's militias, destroyed several houses in Nabatiyeh with their shells, killing a woman and seriously wounding her husband."

— "What is the present situation in South Lebanon?" —

EXPLOSIVE SITUATION AFTER CAMP DAVID

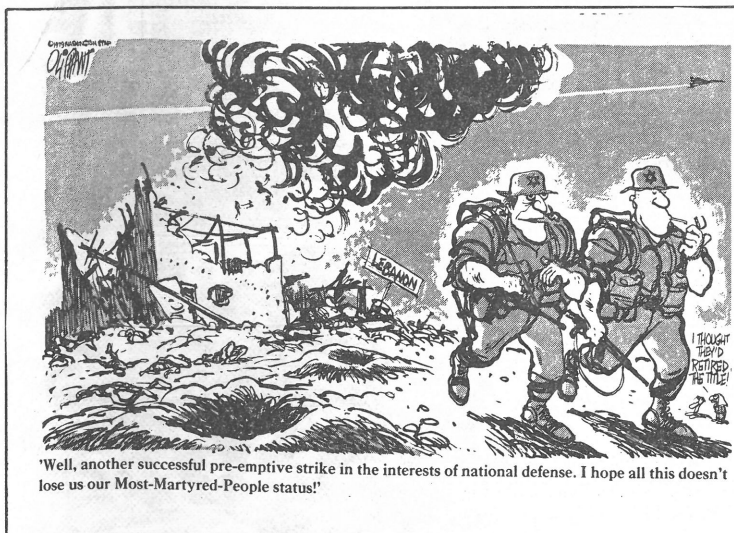
"We know that the military situation is no more than the military expression of the planned political situation or aim. The current situation, since Camp David and the signature of

the separate Sadat-Begin treaty, is an explosive one, interspersed with short periods of calm. Our Palestinian people, inside and outside the occupied territories, have categorically rejected the Camp David deals, so the Americans and Israel are trying to strike at the Palestinian Revolution wherever it may be, particularly in one of its strongholds, south Lebanon. Furthermore, the United States is seeking to use the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan as an excuse to extend its hegemony over the Middle East and rekindle the fire in Lebanon, particularly in the South.

"Military manoeuvres by the Israelis and the fascists (Saad Haddad's faction) have been noted in the last few days all along the Lebanese-Israeli border. In addition, the threat of Israeli aggression against Syria has led the latter to redeploy its troops in Lebanon. We are expecting a joint Israeli-fascist attack on a wide scale against South Lebanon, particularly against the Nabatiyeh, Aishiya, Rihan, Jezzin and Bekaa regions."

— "There are attempts to drive a wedge between Palestinians and Lebanese. What do you think?" —

"It's true that the renegade Lebanese officer Saad Haddad and his clique are trying to create friction between the combatants of the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement on one hand and the Shiite population of the South on the other, by spreading their agents in the region and using false and provocative propaganda techniques. In this, they are applying the well-known Israeli tactic: some of their agents massacre a Shiite family in a part of the south controlled by our Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces; afterwards Israel and its henchmen try systematically to blame it on Palestinian combatants.



Lebanese family standing in front of their house in Nabatiyeh, of March 9 where their grandmother was killed asleep by an Israeli shell in the night

"But most Lebanese citizens in this region are aware of these evil methods and are trying, by their unity and their support for the Palestinian revolutionaries and Lebanese progressives, to foil them.

THE SAME FATE IN CONFRONTING THE ZIONIST THREAT

"This awareness is strengthened by the fact that Palestinians and Lebanese in south Lebanon share the same fate in confronting the direct Zionist threat."

— "What means of civil defence do you have?" —

"Shelters are the only means of protection and civil defence, although there are not enough of them in relation to the population. Sometimes a shelter may be several hundred metres away from houses.

"In addition, we have a Fateh hospital which can receive urgent cases, and a Lebanese National Movement clinic."

The military commander of the Nabatiyeh region, Ala', returned from a tour of inspection; we asked him what he thought of the Lebanese Army entering the south.

"We are in agreement with the Lebanese armed forces intervening in the region," he said, "but on condition they are deployed in all

sectors of south Lebanon, particularly Marjayoun and the border villages occupied by both Saad Haddad and Israel.

"You may recall that last year, we facilitated the Lebanese Army's entry to Kaukaba and the central sector. Likewise, we still place all our capabilities at the Lebanese state's disposal to restore its sovereignty over the whole of Lebanon, including the areas controlled by Israel and Saad Haddad, so it can defend Lebanese territorial integrity."

— "How do you react to heavy Israeli or fascist shelling?" —

"In every case, even during continuous and heavy shelling, our fire is directed against the military positions of the Israeli forces and Saad Haddad's militias. This is the opposite to the latter's habit of firing shells at civilian population centres, which tends to cause a greater number of people killed and wounded among the inhabitants. Such acts have a twofold aim: to cause as much human and material loss as possible, and to weaken, or indeed destroy, the population's confidence in the Palestinian Resistance and the Lebanese progressive parties."

After this conversation, we went to a house — or rather what was left of it — which had been the target of Israeli shells on 7 February. In front of a broken door, a woman with reddened eyes was crying out, "They don't even spare old people. They deprive them of the right to die peacefully in their own homes."

MILITARY AGGRESSION FOLLOWS CAMP DAVID

"MY MOTHER WAS LYING
IN A POOL OF BLOOD"

Pointing to the remains of a small room, whose floor was covered with a mixture of broken glass, stones and blood, she said, "We were getting ready to sleep when the shelling started. I collected my children and headed with them and my husband towards the nearest shelter. I thought my elderly parents had gone ahead of me. When the shelling stopped, my husband rushed to their room. My mother was lying there (she pointed to a corner of the room) in a pool of blood. My father, who had been badly wounded in the spine, could hardly breathe. We took him to hospital, and he's still under intensive care. But the doctors told me there's no hope." She burst into tears.

At Arnoun Castle, perched on a large hill facing all the dangers from Israel and the areas under Haddad's control, Palestinian commando Abu Mohammed told us: "The castle is an important strategic position for us, particularly in military terms, since it overlooks the Israeli- and fascist-held regions like Marjaiyoun, Klayat, Dair Mimas and part of occupied Palestine

(Metullah). From here, we observe all the enemy's manoeuvres and movements every day.

"Our enemies' military superiority makes us even more determined to resist. For us, it's a question of a challenge, although our weapons are not of the standard of those which the United States provides to Israel, from 240mm. shells to the most sophisticated combat aircraft (F-15s and F-16s)."

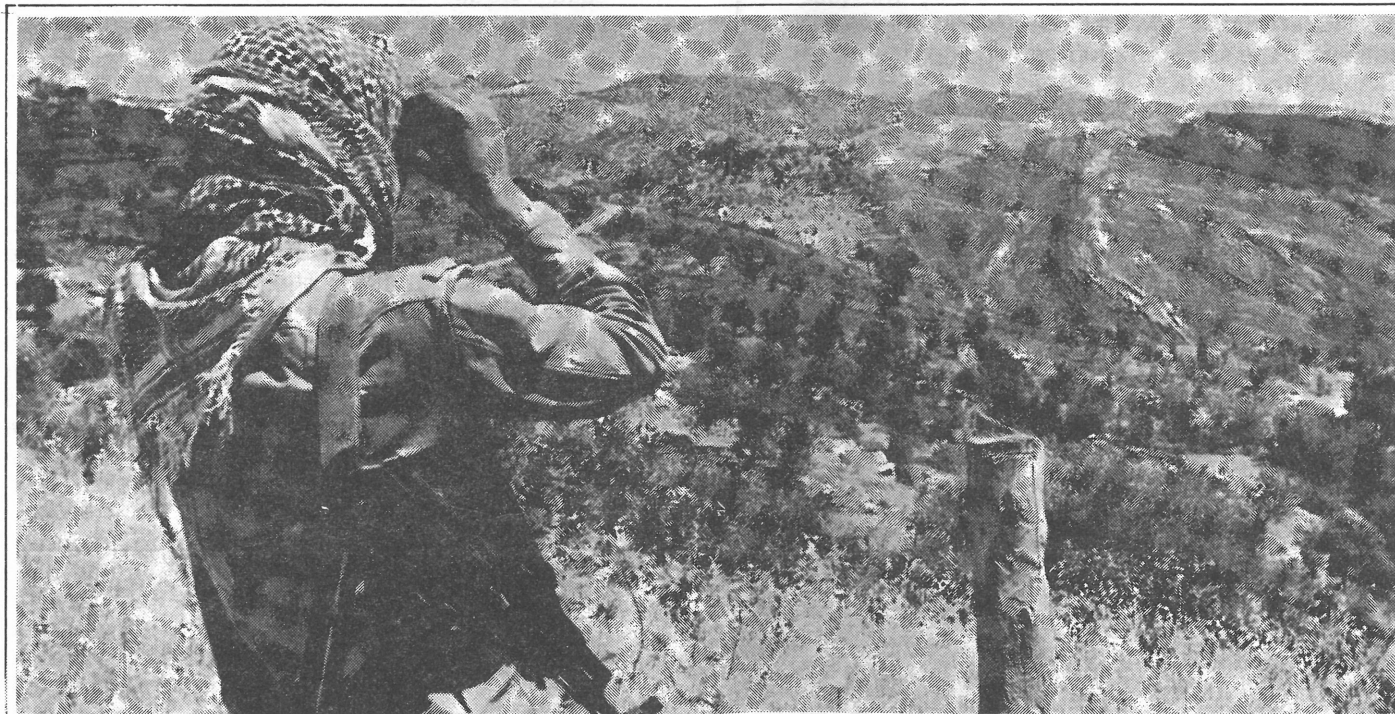
— "Do you have a dispensary or medical centre for emergency cases?" —

"The only hospital in the area is in Nabatiyeh, half an hour from here. Once we were able, under a hail of shells, to take one of our wounded men there. Here, we can provide first aid for less urgent cases."

Hassan, an 18-year-old Palestinian commando, told us: "I joined the Palestinian Revolution in 1977. I was 15 years old then, and my father advised me to continue studying before joining. But my faith in my people's cause and my desire to regain my dignity and my land gave me the strength I needed to bear the consequences of my choice."

— "Why did you choose this dangerous situation?" —

"It may seem dangerous to you, but not to me. I have dedicated my life to my people's cause, in full awareness that death lies in wait for a commando wherever he may be. Furthermore, this situation boosts morale, since I feel closer to my Palestine."



Fighters of the Joint Palestinian - Lebanese national forces: the same fate in confronting Zionist aggression

"NORMALIZATION":

SADAT'S ISOLATION GROWING

RALLY IN AL-AZHAR AGAINST NORMALIZATION

Thousands of Egyptians gathered inside Egypt's most sacred mosque, al-Azhar, on March 7 to protest President Sadat's move to "normalize" relations with Israel. The protesters, Reuters reported, hung a banner that vowed "Muhammad's army will return to Jerusalem." Observers point out that the Egyptian people hold Jerusalem sacred, and see through Sadat's hypocritical vow to "liberate" Kabul and Tehran under the guise of Islam. The main speaker at the gathering said: "Today we call you to discuss a Zionist-American plot on Jerusalem. We have to understand it and confront it." Leaflets were also distributed calling on the people to boycott all Israelis, plus Egyptians who had dealings with them.

FAHMI: NO LOGIC IN EGYPTIAN GENEROSITY

Former Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmi has denounced the so-called "normalization of relations" between Egypt and Israel. In an article published in the weekly *Al-Shaab* newspaper on March 11, Fahmi expressed the Egyptian popular view that "all relations with the Israeli government and contacts concerning normalization and Palestinian autonomy negotiations must be stopped at once until Israel recognizes the Palestinian right to establish a state." Fahmi added that Sadat "is giving Israel one concession after the other while part of Egypt and other Arab territories are still under occupation. I don't find a single logical reason for this Egyptian generosity in speeding up normal relations with Israel."

"FLEXIBLE" ISRAELIS TO INCREASE SETTLEMENTS

Butros Ghali, Egypt's Minister of State for

Foreign Affairs, told a press conference on March 7 that U.S. backing for a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for the dismantlement of Zionist settlements, and Carter's immediate disavowal of the resolution, have been "exaggerated." What mattered, Ghali said, was optimism. "A negotiator must always be optimistic and as long as you negotiate you should be optimistic." Asked if Israel was being flexible in the so-called "autonomy negotiations," Ghali replied: "If there is no flexibility there will be no negotiations." The "flexibility" of Israel was shortly thereafter made public by its finance minister Yigael Hurwitz. The Zionist state is to expropriate 1,100 acres of Arab land north of Jerusalem from the territories it occupied in the 1967 war. The Egyptian leader's claim that "normalization" is dependent on progress on "autonomy talks" has been exposed to mean a cover for Zionist expansionism and the violation of Palestinian rights.

KUWAIT BANS EGYPTIAN NEWSPAPERS

The Kuwaiti Ministry of Information on March 1 issued a decision banning all Egyptian newspapers from entering Kuwait.

The Ministry also said that a number of Egyptian magazines, *Akher Sa'a*, *al-Mussawar* and *October*, had been seized from the news stands because the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel violates the Arab boycott of Israel, and because these magazines carried Israeli propaganda harmful to the Arab States. In Jeddah, the Saudi News Agency reported that the Board of Trustees of the Islamic Development Bank decided during its annual meeting on February 29 to suspend Egypt's membership in the Bank in accordance with the resolutions of the Arab League, calling on members to sever all relations with Egyptian institutions.

RELEASED EGYPTIAN PRISONERS: REALIZE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE!

The Israeli authorities on March 11 released six Egyptian and Palestinian prisoners who were sentenced to up to fifteen years in prison on charges of affiliation to the Palestinian Revolution and of executing operations inside the occupied territories. The prisoners, four Egyptians and two Palestinians, declared that they support the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and the realisation of the rights of the Palestinian people. Two prisoners, both Egyptian, said they considered Zionist Israel their enemy until the Day of Judgement. One of them added that he still considered himself a commando working for the Palestinian Revolution.

WEST BANK MAYORS REJECT "AUTONOMY"

The Mayor of Ramallah, Karim Khalaf, has reaffirmed that the Palestinian people in the occupied territories unanimously reject Sadat's treason and the autonomy conspiracy. Commenting on The Hague round of the autonomy talks between Egypt, Israel and the U.S.A., the Mayor said that anyone wishing to discuss the Palestinian question should first address himself to the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He reiterated that a just peace could be achieved through a complete Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian and Arab occupied territories as well as through the realization by the Palestinian people of their national rights, including their right to self-determination and to establish an independent state under the leadership of the PLO.

MAYOR QAWASMEH: PEACE ONLY THROUGH THE PLO

The Mayor of Hebron, Fahd al-Qawasmeh, affirmed that peace cannot be achieved in the Middle East unless the Palestinian people regain their full rights in their homeland. He told a delegation of American citizens interested in the Palestinian cause that the solution of the Palestinian problem cannot come through Washington or Cairo, but only via the PLO. Qawasmeh briefed the delegation with which he met on March 9 about the roots of the Palestinian cause and referred to the United States' stand as a negative one. He said that while the United States pretends to defend freedom, democracy and human rights, it supports Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people and the Arab nation by supplying Israel with weapons and

tion. Another released prisoner said that the Israeli authorities ill-treated and tortured him in jail.

EGYPT BANNED FROM ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

The Conference of the Endowments Ministers of Islamic States, which started its meeting in Mecca on March 5, barred the Egyptian delegation from participating in the conference because of its stand on, and justifications for, Sadat's treason against the Arab nation. The General Secretary of the Islamic League for the Arab World affirmed that the Egyptian Endowments Ministry has strayed away from Islamic beliefs by trying to justify Sadat's conspiracy against the Arab nation.

funds. The Mayor then said that Carter's disavowal of the resolution adopted by the United Nations "did not surprise us, since Carter has changed his position on the Palestine cause more than once before."



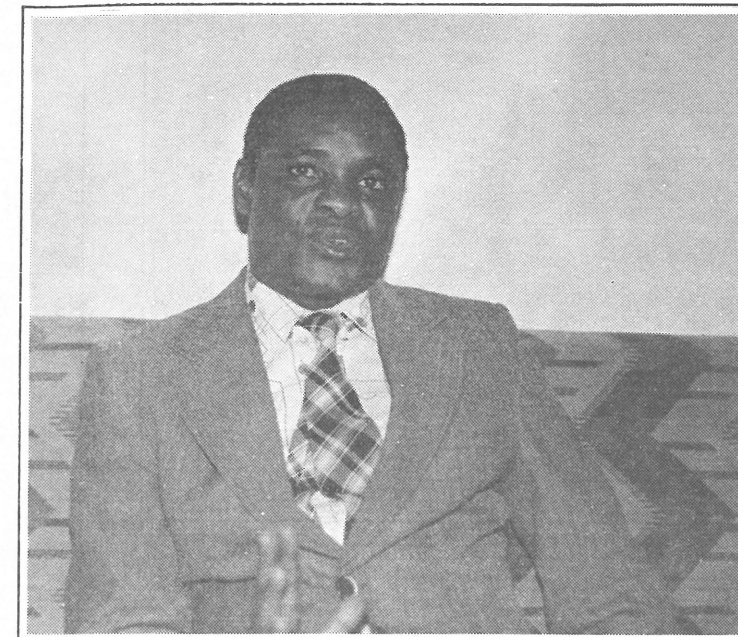
West Bank Mayors Khalaf, Qawasmeh and Shaka'a (from left to right)

SHAKA'A: PLO SOLE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE

Reacting to articles published in Egyptian and Israeli newspapers, Nablus Mayor Bassam al-Shaka'a said the PLO is without any doubt the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and any attempt to ignore this fact is a vicious conspiracy against our people. Egyptian and Israeli newspapers have raised doubts as to the aims of the National Guidance Committee, established in the occupied territories to foil the Camp David accords and to consolidate the nationalist ranks against Zionist settlements. The mayor concluded that the committee is an important national alliance against the occupation and is not an alternative to the PLO as the leader of the Palestinian people.

"PALESTINE" INTERVIEW WITH ZANU-PF DELEGATION:

"OUR VICTORY IS A VICTORY FOR PALESTINE, TOO"



Comrade Charles Dauramazi
during interview with "Palestine"

In mid-March a delegation from the victorious ZANU-PF party in Zimbabwe visited the Palestinian Revolution and met with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and other PLO Executive Committee members. "Palestine" took the opportunity to discuss current developments following the victory of the Zimbabwean people.

The questions and answers were conducted with the head of the delegation, Comrade Charles Dauramazi, member of the central committee and military high command of ZANU-PF and head of logistics and supplies in the army. Comrade Freddie Matanga, member of the ZANLA military command and the party's chief representative to the Middle East, was also present during the interview.

Dauramazi outlined the purpose of his visit to be:

a) "To share recent recent experiences underlying our two situations in view of the change of situation in Zimbabwe and the inevitable change of imperialist tactics both in southern Africa and the Middle East."

b) "To have a joint analysis of our past and present achievements so as to ensure continued cooperation between us and the P.L.O. as the sole legitimate representative of the struggling masses of Palestine."

c) "To jointly analyze our present and future role as part of the international progressive

forces struggling for national liberation and independence."

Q: What are the major problems you face in the process of national reconstruction after liberation?

A: "Our first priority is the resettlement of the masses of the people displaced by enemy brutalities during the liberation war. Homes and property have been destroyed, and reconstruction is vital.

"The re-establishment of educational and medical facilities is also an immediate task. Schools have to be built and organized in a uniform educational system. Distinction between African education and European education has to be abolished. Health services providing care to the whole nation regardless of race have to replace the parallel system of hospitals based on race. Agricultural projects and the construction of roads are also of paramount necessity.

"Our other major priorities include, a) the revival of an economy wrecked by 15 years of sanctions and war, b) immediate re-direction of the people's attention and energy from wartime priorities to national reconstruction, c) mental decolonization of the people, d) mental disarmament of former enemy forces and turning them into a people's force capable of defending and consolidating the gains of the revolution, e) last but not least to promote internationalist feelings amongst the masses and gear their minds to all international tasks ahead. Defeating the



Their victory further encourages the struggle of our Palestinian people

enemy was a local struggle. Now they have to realize more than ever that they are part of the protracted fight against world imperialism and racism, including its Zionist form."

Q: How seriously do you take the military threats of South Africa and the multinational monopolies' threats to withdraw their capital?

A: "Seriously indeed! The long-standing presence of South African forces in Zimbabwe gives them wider chances of infiltration and subversion. We should keep in mind the recent South African threat of invasion if ZANU-PF won the elections. As the last imperialist bastion in Africa they will stop at nothing in their attempts to keep their heads above water."

"Imperialists will try their best to remedy the loss inflicted upon them, which is an international blow, since their strength both in southern Africa and the Middle East have the same foundation. Only prior to our victory the Rhodesian Army showed off its T-55 Soviet-built tanks to intimidate our people. Where did they get them from? We know they couldn't have captured them from the Mozambican Army, because Mozambique has no such tanks. Obviously they came from a Western stooge government which had access to Soviet weapons."

"They could try an economic blockade such as those which occurred against many countries, e.g., Cuba and Vietnam. They could even attack as they threaten to do, but one thing we are sure of is that they will never occupy Zimbabwe."

Q: What are the regional and international

implications of the victory of the Zimbabwean people for the regional and world-wide national liberation movements?

A: "Regionally we have neutralized South African ambitions in the area and thereby have created advantages for the liberation struggle both in South Africa itself and in Namibia."

"Internationally our victory is a joint victory for all the liberation forces of the world, and particularly our Palestinian comrades, with whom we share a similar situation."

Q: After a century of white domination, how do you envisage race relations in independent Zimbabwe?

A: "We are not racists. We haven't been fighting the white man, but a system, the way you are not fighting Jews but Zionist racists. Whoever is prepared to work under the people's government can stay on, but those who want to preserve white supremacy will have no choice but to quit the country."

Q: How do you evaluate Palestinian-Zimbabwean relations after your victory?

A: "The Palestinians and Zimbabweans are, and have been, one in the sense that:

1) Zionist Israel and British colonialism are one, and we have therefore been fighting one enemy throughout. The differences are only in location, terms and management. Let's not forget that it was Israeli pilots who were bombing our villages.

2) If we had been defeated our defeat would have been a defeat for the Palestinians; therefore our victory is a victory for the Palestinians.

3) We have jointly liberated one sector of our front, so we must proceed to liberate the other sector, Palestine, as well. The road could be bitter but our future together is bright.

"If I may add something here, imperialism will forever struggle hard. Just as they arm Zionist Israel to the teeth for a major offensive, so will they simultaneously struggle hard to isolate nationalist forces diplomatically. When they are not at war they resort to assassinations against revolutionary leaders. During the election period several ZANU-PF leaders were assassinated and there were attempts on Prime Minister Mugabe's life. The assassination of Palestinian leaders by the enemy is a part of the same strategy. Vigilance, comrades, our future is bright."

SOLIDARITY

WORLD PEACE COUNCIL REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

The World Peace Council has reaffirmed its support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on Palestinian national soil. The Council has also requested an unconditional withdrawal of Israeli occupation troops from all the occupied Arab territories. This confirmation appeared in a communique issued by the Council following a meeting in Addis Ababa which ended on March 2. The communique also denounced the Camp David accords, describing them as a crime against the Arab Nation and the Egyptian and Palestinian people. The Council then expressed its opposition to the proliferation of imperialist military bases, in particular the naval and air bases recently offered to the U.S.A. by Egypt, Somalia, Kenya and Oman. The World Peace Council meeting was attended by over one hundred representatives from sixty countries and organisations.

VIETNAM REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR PLO AND PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam has reaffirmed its support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, to restore their national rights and establish an independent state, the Vietnamese daily *Nhan Dan* reported in early March. The newspaper condemned the Egyptian regime's establishment of



diplomatic relations with Israel as treason against the Arab Nation, and described the Egyptian leaders as agents of U.S. imperialism working to liquidate the revolution in Egypt, the Arab world and the Middle East.

PORTUGUESE-ARAB FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION SENDS LETTER OF SUPPORT

In a letter to the Palestinian Revolution, the Portuguese-Arab Friendship Association sent its greetings to the Palestinian people, and their sole legitimate representative the PLO. P.A.F.A. also wished to express its hopes that this opportunity will help strengthen Palestinian-Portuguese ties. P.A.F.A. reiterated its support for the Palestinian people's struggle, the PLO and the Arab cause; and affirmed

that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East could be achieved only through the establishment of an independent and free Palestinian state, under the leadership of the PLO, and through the withdrawal of the Zionist forces from the occupied Arab territories. The letter was sent by the president of P.A.F.A., Dr. Suleiman Mamede.

PALESTINIAN FESTIVALS IN U.S.A.

The Palestinian community in the U.S.A. recently held a series of conferences, seminars and festivals throughout the country, affirming their continued support for the Palestinian Revolution and their solidarity with the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. During the events, funds were donated to the Palesti-



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rian Revolution, particularly in New York and New Jersey.

MEXICANS DENOUNCE SHARON VISIT

Thirty popular Mexican organizations, including the Mexican Movement for Peace and the Latin American Journalists' Union, issued a communique which was published in the main Mexican dailies on March 4 denouncing the visit to Mexico of Israeli Agriculture Minister and Ministerial Settlement Committee Chairman Ariel Sharon, who arrived in Mexico March 13. The purpose of his visit is to gather contributions for the strengthening of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab lands. The communique denounced Israel's settlement policy and its violations of the rights of the Palestinian people.

Mexican newspapers also criticized the visit, and published short biographies of Sharon showing his criminal practices against the Palestinian people and his direct responsibility for some of the most atrocious crimes against Arabs in the occupied territories. The papers also focused on Sharon's encouragement of extreme Zionist group of their occupation and confiscation of Arab land for the purpose of establishing settlements on it, and to expel its Palestinian inhabitants, the rightful owners.

FRANCO-PALESTINIAN SOCIETY DEMANDS RECOGNITION OF PLO

The Franco-Palestinian Society has called on the French Government to grant the PLO official and full recognition as the sole legiti-

mate representative of the Palestinian people. The Society also demanded that the French Government extend an official and unconditional invitation to Chairman Yasser Arafat to visit France. In a communique published on March 14 in the French daily *Le Monde*, the Society affirmed that a just peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved without the recognition of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, in particular their right to establish their own independent state on Palestinian soil. The Society moreover denounced Israel's expansionist and aggressive policy in the occupied territories and in South Lebanon; and saluted the recent move by the French Government, urging it to adopt the stand of the Third World and southern European states on the Palestine cause, and to exert more efforts to implement U.N. resolutions on Palestine.

The communique was signed by

three hundred French political and intellectual figures.

CYPRIOUS COMMUNIST PARTY IN SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE

Chairman Yasser Arafat received a message from the Cypriot Communist Party (AKEL) at the conclusion of its 18th congress on March 14. The message expressed the solidarity of the Cypriot people, struggling for independence and self-determination, with the Palestinian people's struggle for their just national rights. The message denounced the imperialist Zionist conspiracy against the Palestinian people's rights, as manifested in the Camp David accords and the establishment of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Israel. The message reiterated the Cypriot people's resolve to support the just struggle of the Palestinian people for self-determination and establishment of an independent state on Palestinian soil.



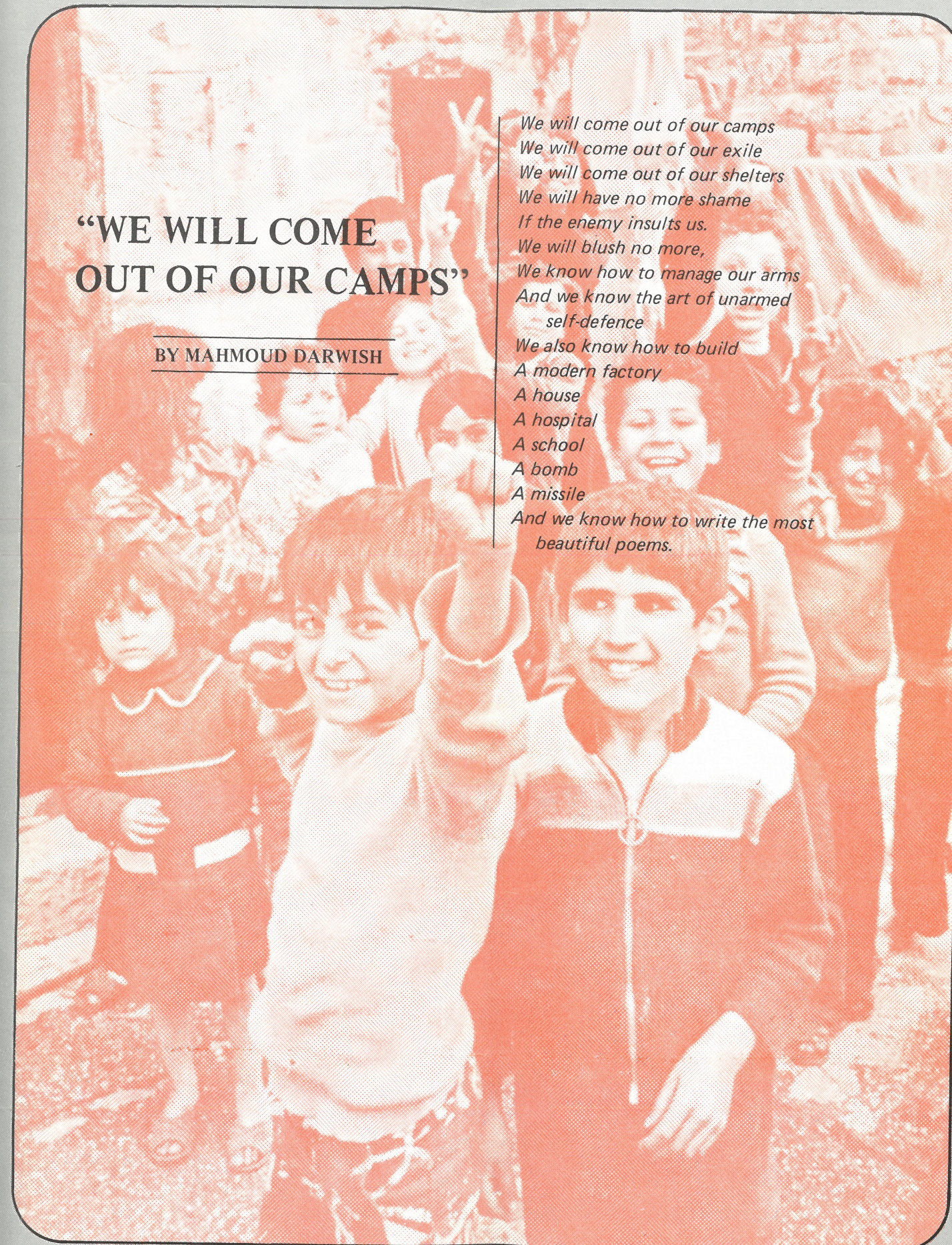
The Danish Palestine Solidarity committee currently carries out a campaign to raise support for the work of a medical team to be sent to Palestinian camps. The Danish committee follows the example

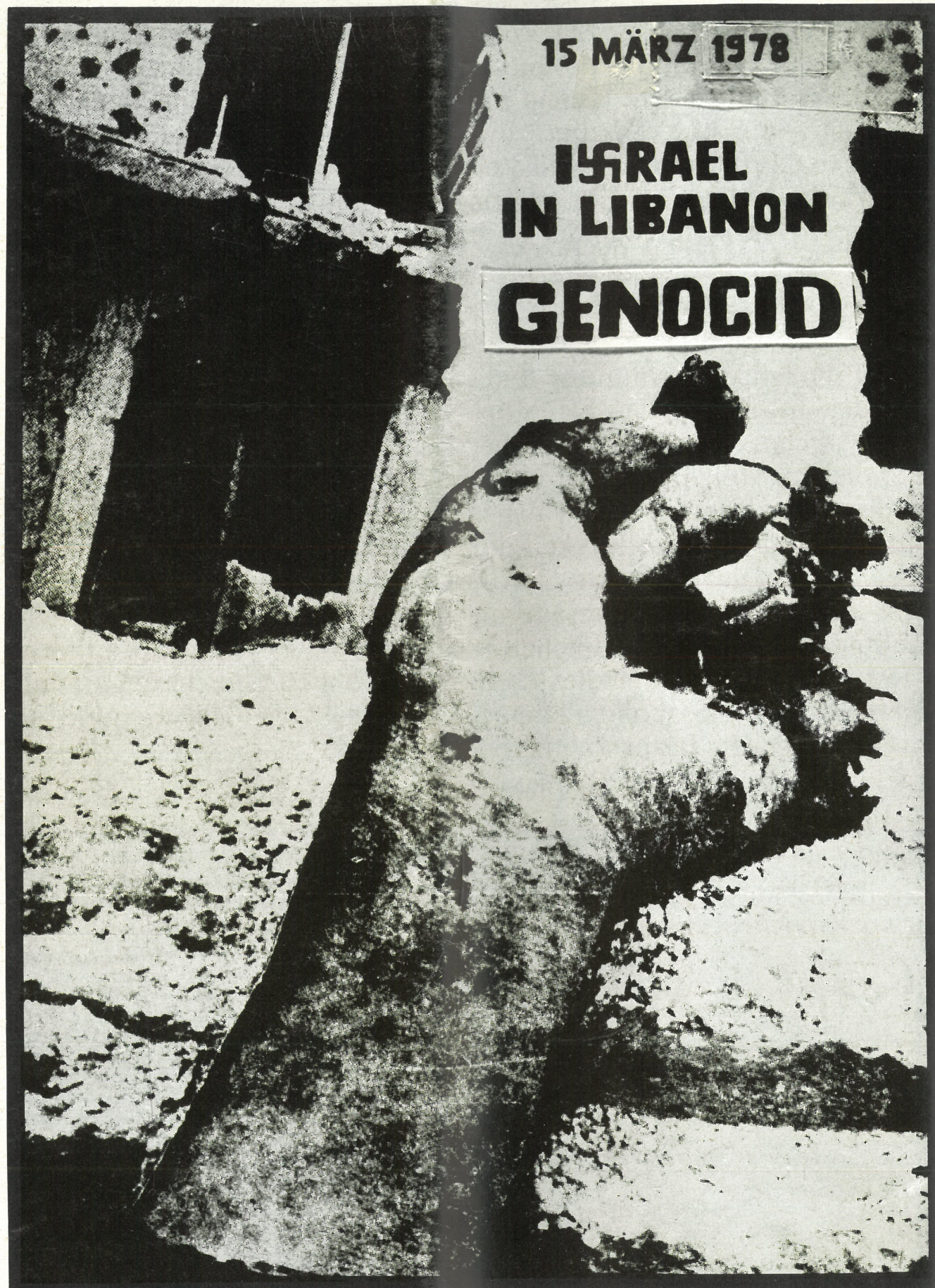
of Swedish and Norwegian teams already working in Lebanon. Donations can be sent to Postgiro 5 66 06 02, Danske Palastinakomite, Jagersborggade 18, 22 Kopenhavn N.

"WE WILL COME OUT OF OUR CAMPS"

BY MAHMOUD DARWISH

We will come out of our camps
We will come out of our exile
We will come out of our shelters
We will have no more shame
If the enemy insults us.
We will blush no more,
We know how to manage our arms
And we know the art of unarmed
self-defence
We also know how to build
A modern factory
A house
A hospital
A school
A bomb
A missile
And we know how to write the most
beautiful poems.





Graphic: Burhan Karkutli, Frankfurt/West Germany

Palestine

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WORLD-WIDE RECOGNITION
OF THE PLO

PER. DIV.

NYPL

