



Designed by S. J. J. J.



VICTORY FOR PALESTINE

Palestine

P.L.O.
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PALESTINE IS THEIR FUTURE

PALESTINIAN CHILDREN IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

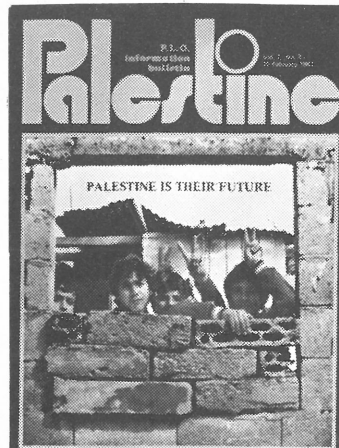
TO OUR READERS

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

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

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

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Palestine

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EDITORIAL

THE PALESTINIAN REALITY

Americans and West Europeans are still looking at the Middle East conflict through Israeli spectacles. They say they are concerned about the security of Israel, the recognition of Israel, the future of Israel and so on. They demand that the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular give more and more concessions in favour of Israel, while on the other hand they provide Israel with all the necessary support to uphold its occupation and expansion. It is very important to know that the arrogance of Israel is not only home-made, but it is mainly European and U.S.-made through stubbornness and blindness. Who provides Israel with all the sophisticated and destructive weapons and equipment? Who is giving the money to Israel which is used to build more and more colonies in the occupied territories?

Israel is the only military super-power in the Middle East, and one may ask: where does this all come from? Factually, Israel is the product of Western world which created her not only for humanitarian reasons but mainly for political and economic reasons. Israel has maintained military superiority in the Middle Eastern region for the last 25 years. Israel's arrogance and aggression has continued for 32 years, but at whose expense? For every act of aggression there is a victim, but who are the victims of those continuous Israeli acts of violence? The Western logic always asks the victims to recognize the aggressors and to give more and more concessions to the occupiers and to the killers. The same logic was used once before in this century, and had lead the world to the brink of disaster. This logic was Hitler's logic and which

had to be destroyed, because it did not fit into the current of history. Finally, Nazism was destroyed, but only after the loss of millions and millions of innocent victims. So too Zionism and the Zionist ideology. They are not viable in our age because they do not fit in with the sacred principles of mankind namely: freedom, democracy and fundamental human rights.

It is true that the Arab nations are split and divided. It is a fact that the Arabs, who belong to the third world nations are technically and militarily under-developed. A fact is also that they cannot match U.S.-Israeli war technology. But there is another fact that the Arabs will not yield to the continuous U.S. and European pressure.

The U.S. and Western countries have to realize that no super-power remains as such in a permanent way. The Middle East has witnessed several empires along its long and ancient history. Israel can only be one of those decaying empires of the region.

It is high time that the U.S. and their Western allies open their eyes and see the changing realities in the region. The most important fact is the growing Palestinian reality which is indispensable for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Neither Peres nor Begin can neglect this fact, and any attempt to by-pass the Palestinian state through a so-called Jordanian option will fail. Palestine is the key issue in the Middle East conflict.

PALESTINE NOTES



Chairman Arafat at graduation session of administrative cadres

GRADUATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE CADRES

On February 7, Yasser Arafat sponsored the graduation of the martyr Col. Ahmad Hanafi session

for higher administrative studies. The ceremony was also attended by Hani al-Hassan, member of the Fateh Central Committee; Dr. Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajani, member of the PLO Executive Committee, and

a number of cadres of the Palestinian Revolution. The two-week session included participants from the various factions of the Palestinian Revolution and focussed on management strategy and the development of leadership skills in the institutions of the Palestinian Revolution.

ARAFAT HEADS HIGHER MILITARY COUNCIL MEETING

Upon his return from Ta'ef on January 30, Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and General Commander of the Forces of the Palestinian Revolution, headed a meeting of the Higher Military Council. The meeting dealt with the brutal Israeli aggression against Lebanese villages and Palestinian camps in South Lebanon. After a comprehensive discussion that took into consideration Israeli declarations and the military escalation, the meeting adopted several immediate mea-



Abu Jihad receives Cypriot delegation

CYPRIT JOURNALISTS DELEGATION VISITS PLO

On January 27, Fateh Central Committee member Abu Jihad received the visiting delegation of the Cypriot Journalists Union in the presence of Bassam Abu Sharif and Ghanem Zureiqat, members of the General Union of Palestinian Writers and Journalists. During the meeting, Abu Jihad discussed the special relations between the Palestinians and Cypriots, and stressed the need for a continuation of meetings in order to confront U.S. imperialism and Zionism. Abu Jihad then reviewed the situation

in South Lebanon, in particular the Israeli attacks against the Palestinian and Lebanese people. Referring to the assassinations of Arabs and Palestinians in Cyprus, Abu Jihad questioned the length of time the Cypriots would remain silent about Israeli activities there. He also pointed to the avoidance of this issue by the official media in Cyprus. Abu Jihad concluded by calling upon the Cypriot government to end the activity of Israeli agents in Cyprus.

During its stay in Lebanon, the delegation of the Cyprus Union of Journalists had the chance to visit refugee camps, establishments and other installations of the PLO and to meet leaders of Palestinian organizations, who briefed it about the just cause and struggle of the Palestinian people. The delegation was absolutely convinced about the determination of the Palestinian people and their leadership to continue and develop further their just struggle under the guidance of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO, to liberate their land, return to their homes and establish their own fully independent state, overcoming the horrible difficulties, obstacles and persecutions they are facing now. The Cypriot delegation hailed the heroic and just Palestinian struggle and cause and manifested the wholehearted support and solidarity of the Cyprus people with the fight of the Palestinian people to gain the right of self-determination

sures to confront the Israeli military escalation

ALGERIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

Khalid al-Fahoum, President of the Palestinian National Council, on January 31, received a delegation from the Algerian National People's Council. The delegation was headed by Said Abbadow and is comprised of eight members. The meeting dealt with issues concerning the Arab Parliamentary Congress which is scheduled in Algeria next March.

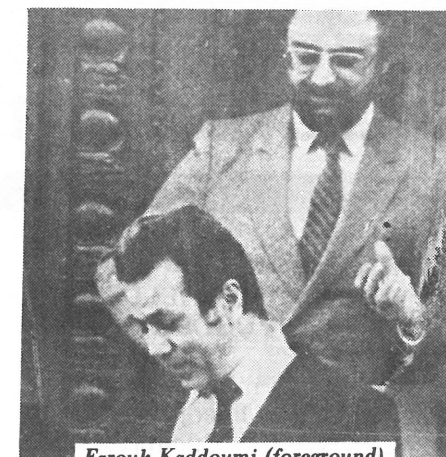
SECOND CONFERENCE OF PALESTINIAN SOCIAL WORKERS

The Second Conference of the Arab Union of Social Workers, which appealed to the UN and other international organisations for the closure of the Nafha prison and the ending of the torture of Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails. The conference pointed out that the worst methods of torture are currently being practised against

Palestinian prisoners, very often resulting in physical disabilities. The conference also called on Arab states to fully support various projects and plans dealing with the care of handicapped and orphaned Palestinians, both inside and outside the occupied territories.

PLO DELEGATION IN FRANCE

During his recent visit to France, Farouk Kaddoumi, Head of the PLO Political Department, met with French Foreign Minister, Jean-François Poncet, on February 2. The Palestinian delegation also comprised of Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajani, member of the PLO Executive Committee; Muhammad Abu Maizar, Director of the Fateh Foreign Relations Office and Ibrahim al-Souss, PLO representative in Paris. The meeting dealt with the latest developments in the Middle East, especially Israeli attacks against south Lebanon. Also discussed was the Third Islamic Conference, in particular results related to Jerusalem and Palestine and the



Farouk Kaddoumi (foreground) leaves French Foreign Ministry

support given to the PLO, and its national aims. The meeting also dealt with possible EEC efforts for a solution of the Middle East crisis and the need to develop such efforts in the near future. During the two hour meeting, the Palestinian delegation referred to the new U.S. administration's declarations regarding the Palestinian cause, which do not serve peace but hinder international efforts to find a just settlement in the Middle East.

including the establishment of their own independent state. The Cypriot delegation invited a delegation of the General Union of Palestinian Writers and Journalists to visit Cyprus in the near future. The invitation was accepted with pleasure."

Non-Aligned Conference in New Delhi

FAROUK KADDOUMI: "CHECK CAMP DAVID"

Farouk Kaddoumi, Head of the PLO Political Department, addressed the Foreign Ministers Conference of the Non-Aligned states in New Delhi on February 11. He said that it was the responsibility of these states to check the Camp David accords because these accords concerned not only the Middle East, but Asia and Africa as well. He stressed that UN Security Council resolution 242 could not be considered an appropriate basis for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. Finally, he requested that the Non-Aligned bloc resolutely oppose U.S. policies in the region as they constitute a serious threat to world peace and security.

In his address to the conference, UN Secretary-General Dr. Kurt Waldheim appealed for



Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at Non-Aligned conference: Support for PLO and Palestinian rights.

PLO participation on equal-footing in any negotiations for a just and lasting settlement to the Middle East conflict. Dr. Waldheim stressed that there could be no justification for the appropriation of territory by force, adding that an essential element in any Middle East peace settlement was the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights, including their right to self-determination and statehood. Dr. Waldheim, declared that the situation in the Middle East

needed increased concern on the part of the international community in order to settle existing conflicts.

PALESTINE NOTES

PALESTINIAN MILITARY DELEGATION HELDS TALKS IN YUGOSLAVIA

A Palestinian military delegation headed by Abu Jihad, member of the Fateh Central Committee and of the General Command of the Assifa forces, and including Fateh Central Committee member Brig. Abu al-Walid and Col. Hajj Ismail, Commander of the Joint Forces in South Lebanon, payed a visit to Yugoslavia in early February. In Belgrade they held a series of meetings described as successful with the Yugoslav Socialist Alliance, and the Yugoslav Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Interior. The military talks with the Minister of Defence and other officials in the ministry were also label-

led as constructive, and dealt with the possibilities of cooperation between the two sides.

PALESTINIAN LAWYERS DELEGATION VISITS SOVIET UNION

During their visit to the U.S.S.R., a delegation representing the General Union of Palestinian lawyers met on February 5 with the Soviet Union of Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries. The delegation, headed by Jamal al-Sourani, secretary of the Union, met with the deputy Chairman of the Soviet group, the secretary of the Soviet Lawyers Union, and the secretary of the Soviet-Palestinian Friendship Society, as well as other Soviet

officials in the presence of Brig. Muhammad Asha'er, PLO representative in the U.S.S.R. to discuss the Arab and international political situation in general and the Palestinian question in specific. The head of the Palestinian delegation confirmed during the meeting that the friendship between the Soviet and Palestinian people is deep-rooted and that the formation of the Soviet-Palestinian Friendship Society comes as an affirmation of this friendship.

The delegation ended its visit by signing a cooperation and coordination protocol with the Soviet Jurists Association in Moscow.

PLO OFFICE IN ANGOLA RAISED TO EMBASSY LEVEL

In a formal ceremony on February 6, during which the PLO representative presented his credentials to Angolan officials on the occasion of raising the PLO office status to embassy level, the Foreign

Minister of Angola reiterated his governments' support for the Palestinian people's struggle to regain their rights under PLO leadership. The PLO representative then handed the Angolan Foreign Minister a letter from Farouk Kaddoumi, Head of the PLO Political Department, in which he thanked the Angolan Government for its total support of the Palestinian struggle.

VOICE OF PALESTINE PARTICIPATES IN AFRICAN COMMUNICATIONS SEMINAR

The Voice of Palestine broadcasting station participated in the 21st seminar of the General Federation of Unions of African Television and Radio Stations, which opened in Tunis on February 5. The opening was attended by Muhammad al-Mazali, the Tunisian Prime Minister, and the Tunisian Communications Minister, as well as other high-ranking Tunisian officials.

SAMED HOLDS SPECIAL SEMINAR ON ILLITERACY ERADICATION

The PLO's workshop association SAMED on February 2 and 3 held a special seminar to discuss the organization of programs to

eradicate illiteracy among Palestinians in Lebanon. The Seminar was organized by the PLO's Culture and Higher Education Department, the SAMED Institution and the Arab Organisation for the Eradication of Illiteracy and Adult Education. The seminar was attended by delegates representing PLO institutions and organisations, and representatives of international organisations, namely the UNESCO regional office in Beirut. The participants praised the decision adopted by the PLO Executive Committee which calls for the formation of a Higher Committee to launch a widespread campaign for the eradication of illiteracy among Palestinians in Lebanon. Several recommendations were adopted during the seminar.

SAMED DIRECTOR MEETS WITH SOUTH YEMENI PRESIDENT

The Director of the SAMED Institution, Abu 'Ala, on February 10 met in Aden with Ali Nasser Muhammad, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. The meeting was also attended by PLO representative in Aden, Abbas Zaki and Haidar Abu Bakr, member of the PDRY's Central Committee and Minister of Construction. The meeting focused on Palestinian-Yemeni bilateral relations. Abu 'Ala also held a series of

meetings with members of the Yemeni Socialist Party's politburo and central committee, to discuss the appropriate means for developing these relations in the various fields.

ARAFAT RECEIVED CABLE FROM MARONITE PATRIARCH MAR ANTONIUS KHREISH

Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and General Commander of the Forces of the Palestinian Revolution, on February 15 received a message from the Maronite Patriarch in Lebanon, Mar Antonius Butrus Khreish, in reply to Arafat's cable on the New Year. The cable expressed hope that peace and right prevail in Lebanon, Palestine and all the world.

PALESTINIAN CHILDREN PARTICIPATE IN IRANIAN REVOLUTIONARY FESTIVITIES

A delegation of 28 young Palestinian Ashbal and Zahrat (Cubs and Flowers) from the Tel al-Za'ater camp, on February 16, left for Tehran to participate in festivities marking the second anniversary of the Iranian Revolution. The Palestinian children's delegation is scheduled to meet with the Ashbal and martyrs' children from other Islamic countries participating in the festivities.

INDIRA GANDHI CONFIRMS SUPPORT FOR PLO

In her address, the Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi confirmed her country's support of the Palestinian people's just struggle under the leadership of the PLO, to regain their inalienable rights to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on their territory. During her meeting with Farouk Kaddoumi, the Indira Prime Minister added that the Indian government denounces Israel's aggressive policies towards the Palestinian people and in particular the arbitrary measures practised by the military occupation forces in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

STATEMENT OF PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL

The PLO Central Council on February 14 held a plenary meeting in Damascus which was headed by Palestine National Congress President Khaled al-Fahoum and attended by Yasser Arafat. Following the 5-hour meeting, al-Fahoum issued the following statement:

"The Council reviewed with appreciation the Taef Summit, expressed the need to exert serious efforts for their implementation, thus

reinforcing the standing of Palestinian struggle in the eyes of the world. The Council reviewed the situation in Lebanon and the dangerous developments expected to arise due to the escalation of Zionist aggression. The Council discussed the best means to confront these attacks, while taking into consideration that the cornerstones of confrontation lies in solidifying and tightening the militant bonds with the Lebanese National Movement and all the Lebanese national forces together with the Lebanese people, so that it becomes possible to face these threats with a militant and unified stand.

"With regard to the position of the United States, as demonstrated in various statements by the new U.S. President and his Secretary of State, the Council looked upon this stand as the continuation of the policy of previous U.S. administrations, intrinsically hostile towards the Palestinian people and the PLO which unequivocally represents them and leads their struggle for the realization of their political goals and the recovery of their inalienable national rights. By insisting on ignoring the fundamental realities of the region, and by offering unlimited support and encouragement for Zionist aggression, the United States, with this stand, embodies a permanent danger to peace and stability in the region and the whole world.

"The Council examined the current European moves, and rejected in principle the European Parliament's call for the participation of the Sadat regime in the European-Arab dialogue, deeming it a violation of the dialogue's principles and objectives. The Council furthermore clarified that any basic endeavour concerning the Middle East cause should start from firm principles which stipulate the total withdrawal of the Zionist enemy from all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and the unconditional recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and of the latter's right to exercise their right to return, self-determination and the establishment of a state on their national soil under PLO leadership. The Council asserted that any move which does not start from these principles can in no way serve the cause of comprehensive and lasting peace and stability in the region.

"The Council noted with pride and admira-

tion the steadfastness of our people in the occupied territories and the escalation of their unyielding struggle in confronting Israel's oppressive measures and the Camp David conspiracy. In this view, the Council discussed the appropriate measures that should be adopted to resist the Israeli policy of expulsion which aims at emptying the occupied territories of their Arab population. The Council hailed the rallying of our people around the PLO and their steadfastness in the face of a policy of systematic intimidation, and pledged to offer all possible support to their resistance and the pursuance of their heroic struggle.

"While covering the stands of various states vis-a-vis the just Palestinian cause, the Council deemed it a responsibility to acknowledge once more the stands of friendly states, especially the socialist states, headed by the Soviet Union, the Non-Aligned Bloc and the Islamic states."

UN Commission on Human Rights:

SEVERE CONDEMNATION OF ISRAEL'S OCCUPATION POLICY

During its 37th session, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on February 11 passed two important resolutions severely criticizing Israel's policy in the occupied territories of Palestine. The PLO was represented at the Commission's session by Daoud Barakat, PLO permanent observer at the UN, and Dr. Elias Choufani, member of Fateh's Revolutionary Council. On February 4, Farouk Kaddoumi, Head of the PLO Political Department, also addressed the session.

Following is the integral text of part (A) of the resolution concerning the "Question of Violation of Human Rights in the Occupied Territories" which was passed with a vote of 31 yes and 3 no, with 8 abstentions. (Part B of the Resolution as well as the second resolution concerning "The Right of Peoples to Self-determination and its Application to Peoples Under Colonial or Alien Domination or Foreign Occupation" will be published in the forthcoming issue of "Palestine" bulletin).

"The Commission on Human Rights,

1. Reaffirms the fact that occupation itself constitutes a fundamental violation of the human rights of the civilian population of Palestinian and other Arab occupied territories,

2. Reiterates the alarm deeply expressed by the Special Committee in its report contained in document (A/34/631) submitted to the 34th session of the General Assembly and reconfirmed in its report to the 35th session of the General Assembly (A/35/425) that Israel's policy in the occupied territories is based on the so-called 'Homeland' doctrine which envisages a mono-religious (Jewish) state that includes also territories occupied by Israel since June 1967,

3. Calls upon Israel to take immediate steps for the return of the displaced Arab inhabitants to

Palestinian and the other Arab territories occupied since June 1967,

4. Declares that Israel's grave breaches of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 are war crimes and an affront to humanity,

5. Firmly rejects and condemns Israel's decision to annex Jerusalem, declare it as its 'capital' and alter its physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and status, and considers all these measures and their consequences null and void,

6. Shares the concern of the General Assembly expressed in resolution 35/122 of 17 December 1980, concerning reports indicating the intention of the Israeli authorities to enact legislation and embodying changes in the character and status of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan Heights and condemns the persistence of Israel in changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the aforementioned area,

7. Condemns the following Israeli policies and practices:

A) The annexation of parts of the occupied territories,

B) The establishment of Israeli settlements therein and the transfer of an alien population thereto,

C) The arming of settlers in the occupied territories to commit acts of violence against Arab civilians, the perpetration of acts of violence by these armed settlers against individuals causing injury and death and wide-scale damage to Arab property,

D) The evacuation, deportation, expulsion, displacement and transfer of Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories, and the denial of their right to return,

E) The confiscation and expropriation of Arab property in the occupied territories and all other transactions for the acquisition of land involving Israeli authorities, institutions or nationals on the one hand, and inhabitants or institutions of the occupied territories on the other hand, and most recently the expropriation of the Arab Electric Company of Jerusalem,

F) The destruction and demolition of Arab houses,

G) Mass arrests, collective punishments, administrative detention and ill-treatment of the Arab population and the torture of persons under detention, the unhuman conditions in prisons, in particular in the Nafha prison,

H) The pillaging of archaeological and cultural property,

I) The interference with religious freedoms and practices as well as with family rights and customs,

J) The systematic Israeli campaign of repression against universities in the occupied Palestinian territories, restricting and impeding academic activities of Palestinian universities by subjecting selections of courses, textbooks and educational programmes, admission of students and appointment of faculty members to the control and supervision of the military occupation authorities, in clear contravention of the Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war,

K) The illegal exploitation of the natural wealth, resources and population of the occupied territories.

8. Condemns the assassination attempts on the life of Bassam Shakaa Mayor of Nablus, of Karim Khalaf, mayor of Ramallah and of Ibrahim Tawil, mayor of el Bireh,

9. Calls upon the Israeli authorities to implement forthwith Security Council resolution 484 of 19 December 1980 and previous ones for immediate of the expelled mayors of Hebron and Halhoul so they can resume their functions they were elected and appointed,

10. Further condemns administrative and legislative measures by the Israeli authorities to encourage, promote and expand the establishment of settlers' colonies in the occupied territories, which further demonstrate Israel's determination to annex those territories and strongly deplores the continuation and persistence of Israel in pursuing those policies and practices and calls upon the government of Israel to rescind those measures, to dismantle the existing settlements and in particular to cease, on an urgent basis, the establishment, construction and planning of settlements in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967,

11. Reaffirms that all measures taken by Israel to change the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure or status of the occupied territories, or any part thereof, including Jerusalem, are null and void, and that Israel's policy





SEVERE CONDEMNATION OF ISRAEL'S OCCUPATION POLICY

That's what I like about our democracy.. We can do whatever we like with the Arabs--legally! (Suleiman Mansour, Al Fajr)

of settling parts of its population and new settlers in the occupied territories constitutes a flagrant violation of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and of the relevant United Nations resolution,

12. Demands that Israel desist forthwith from the policies and practices referred to in paragraphs 5,6,7,10,11.,

13. Demands that Israel cease forthwith all acts of torture and ill-treatment of Arab detainees and prisoners,

14. Calls upon Israel to release all Arabs detained or imprisoned as a result of their struggle for self-determination and the liberation of their territories, and to accord to them, pending their release, the protection envisaged in the relevant provision of the international instruments concerning the treatment of Prisoners of War,

15. Renews its request to the Secretary-General to collect all relevant information concerning detainees, such as their number, identity, place or duration of detention, and to make this information available to the Commission at its thirty-eighth session,

16. Condemns once more the massive, deliberate destruction of Quneitra perpetrated during Israeli occupation and prior to the withdrawal of Israeli forces from that city in 1974, and considers this act a grave breach of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War,

17. Reiterates its call upon all states, in particular the states parties to the Geneva Convention relative

to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War in accordance with Article 1 of that Convention, and upon international organisations and specialised agencies, not to recognize any changes carried out by Israel in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and to avoid taking any action or extending any aid which might be used by Israel in its pursuit of the policies of annexation and colonization or any other policies and practices referred to in the present resolution,

18. Calls upon Israel to report, through the Secretary-General, to the Commission at its thirty-eighth session on the implementation of paragraphs 5,6,7,9,10,13,14.,

19. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all governments, the competent United Nations organs, the specialized agencies and in particular the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation and the World Health Organisation, the regional inter-governmental organisations and the international humanitarian organisations, and to give it the widest possible publicity, and to report to the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-eighth session,

20. Decides to place on the provisional agenda of the thirty-eighth session as a matter of priority, the item entitled 'Question of Violation of Human Rights in the Occupied Arab Territories, Including Palestine', and requests the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the Commission all United Nations reports appearing between sessions of the Commission that deal with the situation of the civilians of those territories."

DESPITE DEPLOYMENT OF
TROOPS AND MASS ARRESTS:

POPULAR SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED STRIKE OF PALESTINIAN TEACHERS

The striking Palestinian teachers in the occupied West Bank have confirmed their determination to go on with the strike until all demands are met, and have foiled various unsuccessful Israeli attempts to break up the solidarity of the West Bank teachers supported from all quarters of the Palestinian population.

A large Israeli force led by the Israeli Military Governor of the West Bank stormed the building of the al-Bireh municipality where a popular meeting was being held, on February 16. The meeting, which was attended by a large number of students, teachers and representatives of national institutions in the Ramallah and al-Bireh regions, dealt with the means to strengthen support for the West Bank public school teachers. The teachers have been on strike for over two months in protest against Israeli refusal to grant a pay raise, already approved for Israeli teachers.

The al-Bireh meeting continued despite intervention of the Israeli troops and issued a communique which stressed the following:

— Full support for the teachers until all demands are met.

— Denial of all reports claiming agreement between the striking teachers and the occupation authorities; as an attempt to sow discord among West Bank teachers.

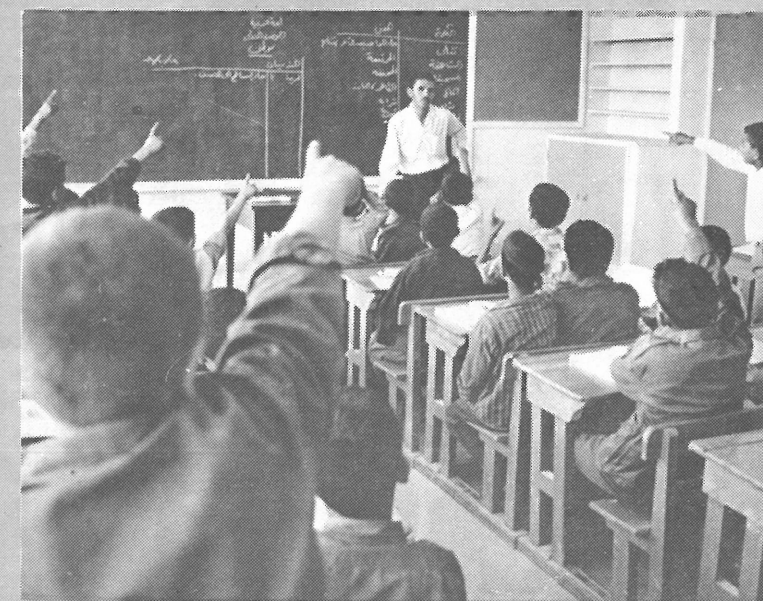
— The sole representatives of the West Bank teachers are the elected General Committee and the other regional committees.

Already on February 2, the General Committee representing the Palestinian teachers working in government schools in the occupied West Bank issued a communique warning the occupation authorities against escalating their policy of terror and ignoring the teachers' just

demands. The communique also referred to the Zionist authorities' attempts to ignore the committee and create an alternative representation for the teachers. The committee moreover denounced the Zionist media's efforts to distort the reality of the teachers' movement with the aim of depriving it of the widescale popular support it enjoys.

In their attempt to break the strike by force, the Israeli authorities took into custody a number of striking teachers in Tulkarm on February 2, summoning several others for interrogation. Following the arrest, Tulkarm mayor Hilmi Hannoun and Anabta mayor Wahid al-Hamdallah cabled the West Bank military governor calling for the release of the detainees and for meeting all the teachers' demands.

In Ramallah, faculty bodies have staged a sit-in in the teaching and education offices and requested the immediate release of detained strikers and reiterated their rejection of all Zionist attempts to deny the teachers' rights. The Israeli authorities issued an order demanding that the teachers immediately evacuate the school offices. Israeli police prevented the students and teachers who had arrived for participation in the strikes from entering the town. The Israeli authorities also arrested several students on charges of participation in the strikes. The Israelis have also requested a list of those teachers on strike for the appropriate means of punishment. Staff members of private schools in Ramallah and al-Bireh joined in the sit-in in the Israeli Military-Governor's offices for education and culture in both towns, in support of their colleagues working in the public schools.



Palestinian teachers: defending their rights and Palestinian national education

POPULAR SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED STRIKE OF PALESTINIAN TEACHERS

The Israeli progressive lawyer Felicia Langer has submitted a petition to the Israeli Supreme Court in Jerusalem demanding the release of all teachers detained in Israeli jails. Known are the names of the following: Samir Barghouti, Nuha Marqa, Musa al-Husseini, Samir Mahmoud, Yousef Omar, Omar Ahmad Mohammad al-Ja'bari, Naim Jaber Mohammad Abu Qahoun, Adnan Jaber Abd al-Raheem Badrah, Ahmad Omar Qabeeli, Nada Shua'ibi and Fadel Ahmad al-Reemawi.

MORE POPULAR SUPPORT

Hundreds of school students from Nablus occupied the city's education and culture offices in solidarity with the teachers. The students stressed in a communique that student-teacher unity is organic and cannot be destroyed, adding that taking a stand with the teachers is the only way towards solving the problems.

The national institutions and organisations in Nablus issued a communique praising and expressing support for the West Bank public school teachers. The participants also sent two cables to the Israeli Military Governor General of the West Bank, blaming him for not meeting the just demands of the teachers. The cables were signed by the Nablus municipal council; the General Union of West Bank Labor Syndicates; womens' organisations in Nablus; professional unions in Nablus; the staff and employees' union of the Najah University; the Najah University student council; the Nablus Chamber of Commerce; the Nablus Regional Charity Associations Union. These institutions and organisations declared the 20th of March a day of solidarity with the West Bank teachers. They in addition sent a cable to UNESCO, calling for its intervention.



Students in support of the striking teachers' demands

OCCUPATION DIARY

COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT:

ISRAELI TROOPS UPROOT ORANGE TREES IN GAZA

Israeli forces uprooted on January 26, orange trees in a grove owned by Gaza municipal council member, Dr. Akram Matar. The Israeli authorities pretending that a bomb was hurled from the groves which are situated on the Gaza-Khan Younes road, on an Israeli car, adding that the absence of guards has encouraged the throwing of explosives.

MILITARY AUTHORITIES HARASS INHABITANTS OF SILWAD AND JERICHO

Israeli authorities in mid-February prevented the inhabitants of Silwad, and other areas surrounding Ramallah, from travelling out of the West Bank, as part of new "security measures", following the killing of an Israeli agent. These Palestinian inhabitants are also being called to the Israeli Military Governor's headquarters for questioning. Likewise, the Israeli authorities prevented the inhabitants of Jericho from travelling out of the West Bank. West Bank students studying abroad have also been refused entry permits to visit their parents during their holidays.

AL-KHALIL UNDER CURFEW FOLLOWING KILLING OF ISRAELI SOLDIER

A new curfew was imposed on the town of Al-Khalil (Hebron), West Bank, on February 10, and check-points were erected at the city's entrances, as Israeli forces apprehended dozens of Palestinians on suspicion of involvement in the killing of a soldier by Palestinian commandos the day before. In statements to Radio Israel, military officials said that so far investigations have yielded no results as to the identity of the culprits. They threatened however to maintain the curfew on al-Khalil and to make more arrests.



Re-newed curfew in al-Khalil (Hebron)

On February 15, the Municipal Council of al-Khalil held a meeting in which it strongly condemned the imposition of the curfew, and warned against its economic repercussions. The fate of over 20 persons arrested following the operation is still unknown. Prior to this incident the authorities had threatened to clamp down on the inhabitants of al-Khalil for resisting settlement activities.

GENERAL STRIKE IN RAMALLAH AND AL-BIREH

On February 11, Ramallah and al-Bireh observed a general strike called by businessmen and shop-owners in protest against the relentless attacks on shops and businesses and high taxes imposed on them. Businessmen stated a sit-in at Al-Bireh Municipality Hall where they met with Mayor Ibrahim Suleiman Tawil and Rev. Aude Rantisi, deputy mayor of Ramallah. The protestors cabled the West Bank Military Governor, calling for an end to the storming and armed robbery of shops, and to cancel the exorbitant taxes levelled on them.

MOUNTING UNREST IN DRUZE COMMUNITY ON OCCUPIED GOLAN HEIGHTS

On 23 of February, the spiritual

leaders of the Druze sect in the occupied Golan Heights confirmed their total rejection of the Israeli authorities attempting, through various means, at integrating the Druze sect.

Of the 130,000 inhabitants in the pre-1967 Golan Heights (1250 KM²), only 15,000 remain spread out among five villages: Majdal Shams, Baq'atar, Mis'adat, Ain Qina and al-Ghajr. The Israeli military authorities had destroyed 77 villages. There now remain only eight elementary and one secondary school with 4400 students. There is only one infirmary, in Majdal Shams, where a doctor visits the region once a week. All Arabic papers are banned from the region except al-Anba' which is an organ of the Israeli government.

In addition, 25 Israeli settlements have already been established, besides the 'Katzreen' settlement complex which accomodates 7000 Israeli settlers. Moreover, the inhabitants of the Golan Heights are treated in the same manner as those of the West Bank and Gaza Strip: most of their land has been confiscated, and they are constantly subjected to the most oppressive measures.

OCCUPATION DIARY



Kept away from their newspapers:

Palestinian editors-in-chief under house arrest

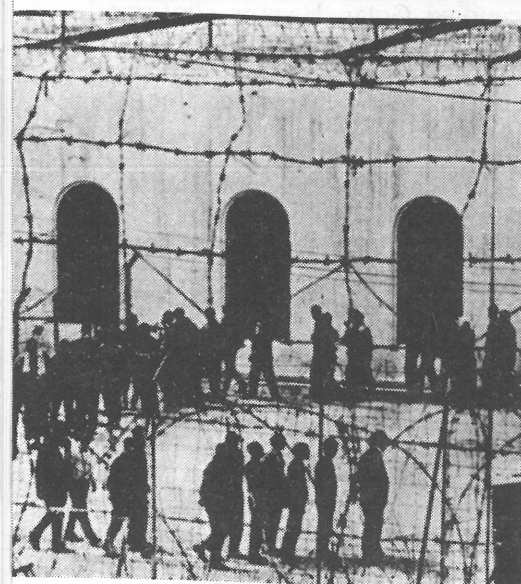
PALESTINIAN EDITORS IN CHIEF KEPT UNDER CONTINUED HOUSE ARREST

The military appeal committee in Ramallah renewed for another 6 months the restriction of movement orders that were imposed on

the three Palestinian editors-in-chief of three Arab dailies, Al-Fajr, Al-Shaab and Al-Tali'a. Ma'moun al-Sayyed, Akram Haniyeh, and Bashir Barghouti were summoned to the military administration's headquarters on February 12, where they were handed the written decision.

ISRAELIS BAN CIRCULATION OF MORE BOOKS

The Israeli occupation authorities once again have banned circulation in the West Bank of a large number of Arabic educational, religious and cultural books, including works by Faisal Hourani, Mustafa Jafal and Dr. Walid Qamhawi.



ISLAMIC COUNCIL DEMANDS RELEASE OF 20 RELIGIOUS FIGURES

The Head of the Higher Islamic Council in Jerusalem on February 1, sent a cable to the Israeli Military Governor of the West Bank demanding the release of the twenty religious figures arrested by the Israeli authorities last month on charges of membership in the Palestinian resistance movement. The message protested the mistreatment of the 20 men by their Israeli jailers, and stated that their confirmed detention provided new proof of the Zionist authorities' complete lack of regard for religious figures.

SHAK'A MADE HONORARY MEMBER OF AL-NAJAH UNION

Nablus mayor Bassam al-Shak'a has become a honorary member in the Teachers and Employees Syndi-

cate of the town's al-Najah University. The syndicate's administrative board, which took this decision, praised al-Shak'a's valorous stands in favour of academic goals. Faculty member Dr. Walid Mustafa who was deported last year by the Zionist authorities together with engineer Samih Tuleibi were also given honorary membership in the syndicate.

ANOTHER PALESTINIAN CITIZEN DEPORTED TO JORDAN

The Israeli occupation forces in the West Bank on February 4 deported Mahmoud Abd al-Fattah, a Palestinian citizen of Deir Jarir village east of Ramallah, to Jordan, without citing the reasons for this expulsion. Mahmoud Abd al-Fattah was previously detained by the Israeli authorities in 1977 and sentenced to 18 years in jail on charges of affiliation to Fateh. He was serving his jail term in Bir Sabe' jail before his expulsion.

ACTOR SENTENCED TO 3 YEARS IMPRISONMENT

The Supreme military court in the West Bank on the 5th of February sentenced 20-year old Husam Saleh Abu 'Isbeh, a well-



ARMED RESISTANCE

In early February, Palestinian commandos operating inside occupied territories killed or wounded several Zionist enemy soldiers in two separate raids. A Palestinian military spokesman issued the following communique in Damascus:

COMMANDOS ATTACK ZIONIST MOBILE PATROL IN GAZA

No. 4/81:

Our commandos from units

operating in the occupied homeland on February 1 at noon attacked an enemy mobile patrol near the Gaza City Municipality, using hand grenades, killing or wounding several members of the patrol. The enemy soldiers in turn opened fire in all directions from their vehicle, wounding a number of Palestinian citizens present in the area, and killing one. Consequently, Israeli army and police surrounded the site of the attack and began a widescale search for our revolutionaries who nevertheless returned safely to base.

known stage actor performing with the Palestine theatre group, to three years in jail for membership in the Palestinian Revolution.

DETAINED NAJAH UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR STARTS HUNGER STRIKE

Muhammad Sawalihah, a professor at the National Najah University began a hunger strike in the Nablus prison on February 8 in protest against the Israeli Military Governor's decision to extend his detention period. The Israeli authorities have also detained Najah University professor Kamel Keelani and several university students on charges of

participation in the recent strikes and sit-in staged at the university in protest against the Israeli military order No. 804 concerning the amendment of the higher education policy in the West Bank.

76 YEAR-OLD PRISONER ON HUNGER STRIKE

Palestinian detainee al-Hajj Naji Abu Najmeh (76) continued an open hunger strike begun three days ago, in protest against Israel's policy of maltreatment and torture of Palestinian prisoners and the refusal to provide him with suitable medical treatment.

Al-Hajj Naji Abu Najmeh is serving a 23 year jail sentence on charges of belonging to the Palestinian Revolution and of opposing the Israeli occupation.

TWO PALESTINIAN YOUTHS SENTENCED

On February 12, an Israeli military court in Nablus sentenced Palestinian youth Omar Youssef Idriss (25) to 12 years in jail; and Khaled Mahmoud Hassan Abdel 'Al (27) to seven years in prison, on charges of attacking a car belonging to an Israeli agent.

ISRAELI SOLDIERS CONFIRM BRUTALITY

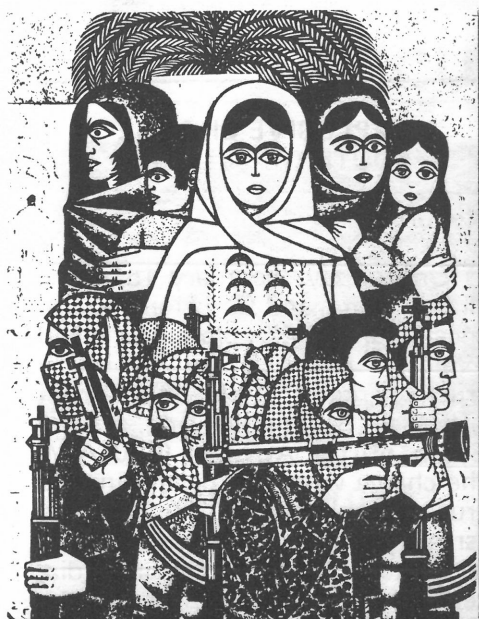
Israeli reservists have confirmed the brutality of the Zionist occupation forces' treatment of Palestinians. In a memorandum submitted recently to the Israeli Knesset by M.K. Uri Avneri the reservists tell of harrowing scenes in the West Bank. "We will never forget the brutality committed by Israeli soldiers against Palestinian civilians," one reservist said. Another, who had just completed a compulsory turn of duty in the West

Bank, said: "I saw a twelve-year-old boy in the military government headquarters with his body rolled into a ball and his hands over his face fending off kicks and punches from Israeli officers. But this was only one of the repugnant scenes I witnessed. There were countless instances of torture, beatings and maltreatment, the like of which I had never seen in my life".

In protest against the Israeli government's policy of aggression against Palestinian citizens, 27 Israeli soldiers have refused to serve



Israeli reservists: "We will never forget the brutality" in the occupied territories, despite the harsh penalties to which they are liable on account of this refusal.



THE LEBANESE PEOPLE MOBILIZE TO DEFEND THE SOUTH

The Lebanese villagers and peasants in south Lebanon are daily afflicted by continued Israeli aggression which takes the form of artillery barrages, gunboat shellings, bombing raids, troop incursions and continual surveillance overflights. Each Zionist transgression threatens to provoke an enlarged conflict.

A standard example of the continual aggression occurred on February 11. Zionist soldiers infiltrated the Lebanese border area and entered the village of Yater. They scoured the village and blew up two houses before they withdrew. The village is located in the midst of a UN observation zone manned by UNIFIL troops from Norway.

The same day Israeli fighter jets overflew the rest of Lebanon. Near midnight Israeli long range artillery shelled the Kasmieh area south of Sidon. Israeli gunboats tried to approach the coast preceded by helicopters flying inland spraying the area with machinegun fire. The landing was aborted by the defence of the Lebanese-Palestinian Joint Forces.

On February 7, the Palestinian news agency Wafa released a summary of the Israeli aggression in January 1981:

"During the month of January, Israel launched ten separate heavy artillery bombardments of south Lebanon, as well as a major air strike. Most of the shelling and the air attack came during the last 4 days of the month, in an obvious response to the Taef Islamic Summit Conference.

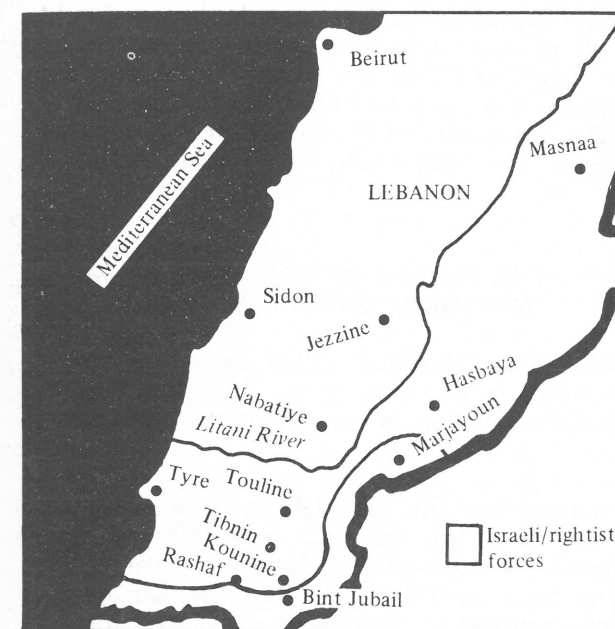
"The most murderous of these Israeli attacks were the aerial bombardment of Nabatiyeh, the Burj al-Shemali camp, and the areas south of Sidon and

north of Tyre along the coast road on January 29, in which 9 civilians were killed and over 25 wounded.

The Joint Lebanese-Palestinian Forces, opened fire at Israeli artillery positions in Metulla, Qiryat Shmona and a number of positions inside south Lebanon only following eight hours of murderous Israeli bombardments directed at all the major cities and towns of south Lebanon, these including Sidon, which was shelled twice, at 4:30 PM, and 10 PM, and where one civilian was killed and two wounded. Tyre was also hit twice the same evening. Two civilians were killed and one wounded. Nabatiyeh and the refugee camps around all three cities were also shelled."

Taking as their pretext the Joint Forces' response to these provocations, Israeli planes raided the next day, following an intensive Israeli artillery bombardment of Nabatiya at noon. The Joint Forces struck back the same night, hitting Israeli gun positions inside Galilee and in Lebanon, but the following day saw more Israeli shelling of the Nabatiya area, as heavy rain precluded further air raids.

At the forefront of facing the continual Zionist aggression are the armed forces from the Lebanese National Movement and other patriotic Lebanese forces in the area. *Palestine* visited the Nabatiyeh area of the south after the intensified aggression at the end of January to meet with the Lebanese defenders of the south participating in the Joint Forces. We visited three military bases manned by Lebanese forces belonging to the Lebanese Arab Army, the Lebanese Communist Party and the Syrian Social Nationalist Party. Fighters in all the bases talked with us about the Lebanese participation in the Joint Forces and about the struggle in the south in general.



THE LEBANESE ARAB ARMY

At the Lebanese Arab Army base in the Nabatiyeh area we were met by an officer who greeted us with the following briefing:

In the view of the forces of the Lebanese Arab Army, who are stationed next to occupied Palestine, the land of the south is the correct place to be for all the freedom fighters of the Joint Forces. The Lebanese Arab Army was created to defend the Palestinian just cause and the Lebanese people's national rights. We saw that the Lebanese government army just acted as observers to the Israelis raids across the border and they never did anything. We decided to form our own army to defend the south and the people in it. One of the major roles of the Lebanese government army when it was in the south was to protect the Israelis from the Palestinian commandos to keep them out of occupied Palestine. The Lebanese Arab Army and the Joint Forces have fought against the Zionists and the Phalangists in the past. This is why the Lebanese government has sent its agent, the traitor Saad Haddad, to the south to further the same plan they had for the south before the Lebanese Arab Army came into existence. The role of Saad Haddad is to defend the Israelis from the fedayeen. The Lebanese government still sends the salaries for Saad Haddad's soldiers and some food and arms. He gets whatever he wants.

The Lebanese Arab Army will keep struggling against the Israelis and the Lebanese Zionists until the people are liberated and until the border areas are recovered so that the Palestinian Revolution can liberate their country.

Q: What is the current military situation in the south?

A: We are expecting many more Israeli attacks in

the coming period. There is no certain time for the enemy to attack or intervene in the south because this is their continuous aim. With Reagan's election as president, the U.S. supports Israel 100% and gives it a carte blanche to intervene in the south. The Lebanese Arab Army with our brothers in the Joint Forces are ready to defend the area against these attacks. Each Zionist attack will be answered by our forces like we did last week when they shelled this area. We insist upon being steadfast in the south and to defend it against the Zionist aggression. The Israelis don't have what we have. We have a belief in a just cause. Anyone who believes in a just cause will continue to fight to gain his rights. His belief will make him stronger to face any conspiracy.

Q: How does the Lebanese Arab Army participate in the Lebanese-Palestinian-Joint Forces?

A: It's a normal relation for us to participate in the Joint Forces. We have a common leadership and we even have some common offices.

The Lebanese Arab Army has its own military bases. When it is requested to send some of our fighters to join the rest of the fighters, we do. Like the other parties we have fighters stationed in common bases belonging to the national movement. There's a joint command.

Q: Some people say that the Palestinians dominate the Joint Command.

A: That's completely wrong. The Palestinians are not the only ones who are in the Joint Forces. There



"You deserve a drink of fresh water"

THE LEBANESE PEOPLE MOBILIZE TO DEFEND THE SOUTH

are continual meetings between all the groups here to arrive at a common plan of action. The meetings serve to unify the Joint Forces. The plan that we want for the south couldn't be undertaken by one group. We all have to share in the responsibilities.

Q: Where do the fighters from the Lebanese Arab Army come from?

A: The majority of the members of the Lebanese Arab Army are from outside the Nabatiyeh area. The people from the north who are here consider that they are defending the north when they fight in the south. The attacks on the south are also an attack on the north of Lebanon despite the distance. Also the Lebanese Arab Army believes that its relations with the masses here in the south are no less important than its military bases. That's why the Lebanese Arab Army participates in assistance projects here to help the people like fixing the streets, bringing medical and social assistance. When we have building material in this camp itself which we don't use, we give it to the people. The Lebanese Arab Army says that this material is for the people and not from the government or the Lebanese authorities because this material was taken from the people themselves. We give it back to the people.

There is an organized program and some committees for assisting the local population. There is a committee for repairing the streets. There is also a committee for sanitation and one for hospitals and one to see to the needs of the villagers. They will send a group to study the situation in a village. We get many letters from the villagers asking us to help them. We built a new road between Zahrani and Sidon. Besides all of that the government does nothing for the people. As long as the government administration is still in Sidon it should do these things, but it doesn't.

Q: What are the special problems that the Joint Forces faces in this period?

A: There is no comparison between the arms we have and the weapons that the Israelis have. That doesn't mean that if you don't have the same quality and amount of weapons you give up. You will be as strong as much as you believe in your just cause. The young man who carries a small rocket launcher on his shoulder faces a plane. The 1978 war in south Lebanon proved this idea. It also changed the ideas of

the people. Everyone thought that the Israeli should occupy all of the south in less than six days. The opposite happened. The war lasted 8 days and the Israelis couldn't occupy all of the south. This is why we care for the quality of the individual, not only for the weapons. The most important thing is the human being.

THE SYRIAN SOCIAL NATIONALIST PARTY

Fighters from the SSNP guide us into a small underground room and serve us tea. They first talk to us about their position in general in the Nabatiyeh area:

The major issue in the Nabatiyeh area is the military question. We are now in a military base belonging to the Syrian Social Nationalist Party. We have other bases in this area. This particular area is completely covered by the SSNP and Fateh forces. The last enemy attacks on this area have strengthened the fighters morale. The attacks have strengthened the morale of the people of the south, the Lebanese National Movement and the PLO in general. In the near future, not only our party, but all the forces here are expecting a large Israeli military action. I think that we are well-organized and we have contact with Fatah military bases and bases belonging to other organizations. I'm certain that we are ready to face any of these military aggressions.

Q: What were the Zionist attacks of January 28-29 like?

A: Last week was very hard for us. But the morale of the Joint Forces was very strong. There were many Israeli shellings of the whole area. (He shows us some bomb fragments from the shelling attacks.) This is what the Israeli aggression leaves behind. We were expecting some Israeli shelling. There were some aerial bombing over the al-Hamra area. The whole time we had to be on the alert for anything. Besides the limited capabilities we have, we are ready to face all Israeli attacks in order to defend the people in the south and the Lebanese Movement is the first line of defense for the Palestinian Revolution. This is not only a sayings for the newspapers; you can see the reality of it here.

Q: How does this military base coordinate its activities with the Joint Forces?

A: The base we are in now has a strong alliance with other bases in the area. Even if there are any gun shots we will be the first ones notified. We also have common troop positions with fighters from Fatah, the SSNP and the other organizations. These are organized in agreement with the joint leadership and the Central Operations Room. There are exchanges on the military and political levels. On a personal level, we visit each other's bases. Of course, the common enemy and the common problem has

unified the PLO and the Lebanese National Movement. The fighters are a part of this unity.

Q: How do the people in the surrounding villages interact with the fighters?

A: We have a committee from the Joint Forces which visits all the homes of the people to see what problems they have and what their needs are. The committee also provides them with basic foods and basic necessities which the people can't afford. Other parties and organizations which have a greater ability offer the people more, like medical services. Also there are popular committees to visit people. These committees are civilian committees and their basic task is to always be close in touch with the general population and to administer to their needs. The PLO and the Lebanese National Movement give the people here what no country in the world has given them. No one pays more attention to what Zionism and imperialism has done to them. Our duty is to serve their needs. As a result of the common enemy, there is no difference between the military and the civilian population. We are not working thinking that colonialism will liberate us. We have to liberate the land ourselves through our own help.

Q: What are relations like here between Palestinians and Lebanese?

A: As I told you, our common problem has

unified us and we have a common cause which we are fighting for. For instance, if we have some military troops Palestinians and Lebanese will be in equal numbers. This is the participation which our leadership wishes especially in the SSNP which has raised the slogan of the liberation of Palestine. Palestine is considered to be the southern part of our nation and is now occupied.

Our party calls for armed struggle to liberate Palestine. That's why the party keeps struggling for the Palestinian Revolution. We defend the Palestinian people because they are our people. We consider ourselves and the Palestinian people as one people. The Palestinians have expressed this by defending the south of Lebanon.

The Zionist strategy in the area is first aimed at smashing the Palestinian Revolution because its the only force facing Zionism in the area and confronting it in the occupied territories. They want to occupy the surrounding Arab states to make one big Zionist state and to reach the Litani River to take the water. Of course, they can only realize this dream with the help of U.S. imperialism. It is very clear to us who is giving all the aid to Israel which they use against us. The Americans don't only give military aid, but they also help on the political and economic levels.



Lebanese family in Kfar Tebnit near Nabatiyeh
in front of their house blown up by Israeli commandos

THE LEBANESE PEOPLE MOBILIZE TO DEFEND THE SOUTH

THE LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY

At an anti-aircraft artillery base run by the Lebanese Communist Party, a group of fighters gathers around us for discussion. One of the fighters begins explaining how the Joint Forces operate :

The success of the military organization in the south is due to what we call the Joint Forces. The Joint Forces' bases which has fighters from all the different groups have created a new situation for us. The fighters leave their ideologies and backgrounds behind them and agree to work as a common unit in these bases. The military situation is more organized than the social work in the area. This is because when the people cooperate together in the Joint Forces, it is easy for them to understand who the enemy is. They are very conscientious in defending the area. Having the responsibility to organize the military defense of this area has meant that relations between different organizations have become closer. This is the reality of how everyone came to share in these activities. Every party plays a big part.

On January 29 Israeli aircraft bombed one of our bases. From this you can tell that Zionists don't differentiate between the PLO and the Lebanese National Movement or between the Communist Party or other parties. Last August three fighters from our party were martyred in the Zionist raids. They attack us all as fighters. Recently the people in the Haddad and Israeli controlled areas have begun to realize that the PLO and LNM areas are better than their own situations. They have asked us to save them in those areas. We can mention some villages — Aishiyeh, Tibnine, Shaqra — where the Haddad forces and the Israelis have killed people in these villages. The majority of the people understand the PLO and the LNM policies and are not reactionary. They see how much we care about them and how we organize to meet their social needs. The difference between our activities and the activities of the Lebanese government are very clear.

In terms of the south, the Lebanese government has not done anything for the people. Most of the people's social, medical and other problems here are solved by the Lebanese National Movement. The government's people are not here at all.

We in the Communist Party are a part of the

Lebanese National Movement and a part of the Joint Forces. We are doing our duty the same as the rest of our comrades and brothers in the PLO and the Lebanese National Movement. The fighters in the south are facing a lot of problems and currently we are somewhat forced to take a defensive position. Each fighter who is available is now in Beaufort Castle, Al Hamra and other villages on the front lines. We are facing daily bombings and have to be ready for such problems more and more. For us in the Communist Party there is daily training for these fighters, to strengthen our forces and to ready our defensive positions. A second task for us at this time is to strengthen our attack capabilities which are also a means of defense. When the fighters receive training everyday it is not just a routine, but is the reality of the daily situation we face here.

There are also some situations like the Arab situation in general which reflects itself on the battle in the south. The people in the south are in need of more technical means of defence. We are not able to supply the fighters with everything they need. But all fighters are fighting with their bodies. We have artillery positions in Beaufort Castle which the Israelis have shelled many times, but we remain there.

Q. What was the participation of the fighters of the CP in defending in the Nabatiyeh area against the Zionist aggression on January 28-29?

A: We don't have all the necessary weapons and anti-aircraft guns. We have to deal with this reality and try to lessen the losses on our side. We follow a guerilla method of defense by not occupying fixed military positions while maintaining the defense of the area. We have two major tasks in the area. One is to make the area safe for the people. We have to defend our bases and the people at the same time.

In the Communist Party, all of us are volunteers. Like the attacks on January 29, at the beginning the fighters are watching for the planes to come and are also a little frightened. When they start bombing there can be a lot of bombs. The fighters become very enthusiastic in such situations to be defending the people.

The reality of the situation in the south is that the Israelis are using the most sophisticated weapons available, like the cluster bombs. There is no comparison between the weapons the enemy has and the weapons we have. Sometimes we have to use Soviet-made rockets in American-made artillery guns and vice versa. Recently we may find that we have the correct rocket for the correct gun. Our confrontational ability has been developed. We now understand that we have the ability of facing a major military threat. We have gained this experience since 1976 when the Israelis attacked many of our bases. Also there was the invasion of 1978. We feel that the Israelis have failed in their attacks against the people of the south and against the Joint Forces to face their attacks. We believe that any liberation movement in



Begin and his former war minister Weizman on Lebanese territory at Naqura during '78 invasion

the world maintains the initiative. The most important thing for us in the quality of the fighter himself. The fighter plays the most important role.

The nature of Israel is that it is an expansionist state and we use all our capabilities to face this. Sometimes we consider Israel as the one who gives us our weapons. This is because many times the Israelis leave weapons behind after their attacks.

The role that artillery plays in military defense has developed for the whole national movement in general and especially for us. Our artillery now can cover all the Israeli air raids. We are fulfilling our duties with our anti-aircraft artillery. We also have set up military bases in front of the front itself. We try to take back as much land as we can. We feel very comfortable taking up these duties despite the obstacles we face. Our experience is growing stronger day by day.

Q: How are the relations between the fighters in the CP and other organizations especially the Palestinian fighters?

A: All of us complement one another. Both the



The victims: civilians rescued by the Joint Forces

Palestinians and Lebanese are in the military positions. The Lebanese and Palestinian fighters are the only ones who have defended this area. They are completely unified under one leadership which gives the orders for the Joint Forces and the military troops.

On the personal level, the relations between us are good and strong. We all have the same thinking about how to face this Israeli aggression. The Lebanese fighter has strong feelings about defending his land and the Palestinian Revolution. The same goes for the Palestinian fighters. They have strong feelings about defending this area which is the only one in which they can be positioned in the whole Middle East. They are also defending the Lebanese national forces which are the primary supporters of the Palestinian cause. If you go to any military base right now, you will find both the Palestinian and Lebanese fighters talking in the same way about the Arab reactionary regimes, about how the Israeli occupation oppresses the Palestinians and how the occupation oppresses the Lebanese in the south. We have this common way of thinking.

The reality is that when the Palestinian and Lebanese fighters are together day after day at the front, their unity becomes stronger and stronger. There is also a unity of blood. For example, in the Zionist attacks in August there were two martyrs from the Communist Party and the rest were Palestinians. This unity is proven everyday in our daily life. The unity grows from eating together, sleeping together in the same tents and numerous other kinds of these common relationships. Fighters from the CP might see more of their fellow Palestinian fighters than they do other comrades in the CP.

Finally this unity reflects itself in the leadership. For instance, when a comrade comes from the military base to talk with the leadership they tell them how good the Lebanese fighters are and the same goes for the Palestinians. This strengthens our morale. Another example is that some of our fighters were missing in Beaufort Castle. Some fighters from Fatah went and looked for them. And we do the same. This is our daily life. The unity is very clear.

Palestinian Flag Replaces Israeli Flag
At Cairo Book Fair:

ISRAEL AND SADAT CANNOT FOOL THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE

Once more the Egyptian people and their intellectuals have demonstrated their condemnation of President Sadat's "peace" treaty and "normalization of relations" with Israel. A group of the Egyptian National Progressive Grouping Party including writers, journalists, university professors and other professionals joined a number of Palestinian activists in protest of the Zionist entity's participation in the Cairo International Book Fair which was inaugurated on January 30, 1981. The demonstrators circulated Palestinian flags and leaflets on the fair grounds urging a boycott of the Israeli display. The leaflets carried slogans such as "No to the Israeli pavilion at the Book Fair" — "No to the Zionist invasion of Arab culture in Egypt."

For its part, the Palestinian pavilion of the "Dar al-Fata al-Arabi" distributed informative material with Palestinian flags and a children's drawing book with the title "Al-Quds (Jerusalem) — Our Dream." Recognizing the failure of the attempt to penetrate with the help and under the protection of the Sadat regime Egyptian cultural life, the angry Israeli ambassador to Cairo tried to cover the Palestinian flag which was hanging on the pavilion of "Dar al-Fata al-Arabi" by means of a wooden panel. Sadat's security forces were rushed to the scene and arrested two Egyptian intellectuals, Salah Issa and Hilmi Sha'rawi, who were distributing leaflets which read "Palestine is Arab" and the like. The leaflets which were issued by progressive Egyptian groupings, together with the Egyptian Lawyers' Syndicate said that the "participation of Zionist publishers in this fair is an integral part of a broad Zionist plan to link Egyptian thinking with Zionist and imperialist targets."

Following these events the Egyptian authorities decided to move the Israeli pavilion to another place. The authorities also asked the Israelis to remove their flag pretending that the Israeli pavilion represented Israeli publishers and not Israel itself. Commenting on this move, Mr. Makdashi who spoke for "Dar al-Fata al-Arabi" said: "What happened is good. They wanted to force us to lower the Palestinian flag but they couldn't... since one of both had to leave, the Israelis had to do so."

This incident was a disappointment and warning for the Zionists, whose foreign minister Yitzhak

Shamir commented admitting; "There are many trends within the Egyptian and Arab society that oppose the peace process and normalization of relations between Israel and Egypt." The director of the Israeli pavilion, Shlomo Evel, complained "none of us was invited to the opening ceremony" (Jerusalem Post, February 1).

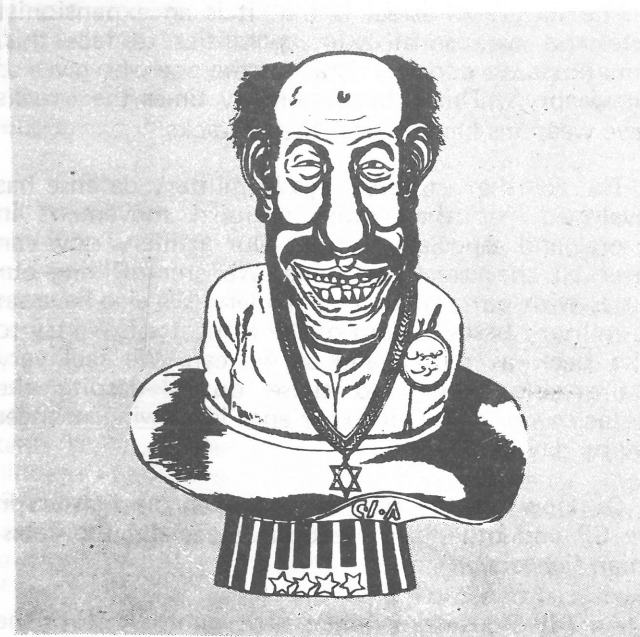
Protests Against The Arrest of Sha'rawi And Issa

The Information Committee of the Egyptian Nationalist Grouping in Lebanon, on February 2, issued the following communique:

"The arrest of Salah Issa and Hilmi Sha'rawi, Egyptian nationalist intellectuals, for their protest against Israel's participation in the International Book Exhibit in Cairo, constitutes a violation of the most basic democratic traditions. Hilmi Sha'rawi and Salah Issa who are founding members in the Committee for Defense of Nationalist Culture in the Unified Progressive Nationalist Grouping Party together with their comrades and colleagues, represent a progressive nationalist current confronting the imperialist-Zionist offensive against our nationalist solidarity. We call upon intellectuals and writers in the Arab countries and throughout the rest of the world to join their voices to ours and to demand the immediate release of the Egyptian colleagues, Salah Issa and Hilmi Sha'rawi."

ANOTHER EGYPTIAN JOURNALIST ACCUSED OF "ANTI-ISRAELI PROPAGANDA"

Reuters reported on February 9, 1981, from Cairo that the leader of Egypt's Union of Journalists, Kamel Zuheiri, was charged the same day with "disseminating anti-Israeli propaganda and acts hostile to a foreign country."



THE FLAG OF PALESTINE RAISED IN THE ISRAELI KNESSET

Members of the Israeli Knesset were deeply embarrassed when for the first time the Palestinian flag was shown in one of the Knesset's sessions on February 11, 1981. Uri Avneri, member of the Shelli party, demonstratively raised the flag of Palestine stuck on a piece of cardboard. The enraged Knesset members violently rebuked Avneri for his action accusing him of "misusing his parliamentary immunity."

This has been the second time in less than a month that an Israeli political figure raised the Palestinian flag. On January 12 retired army general Matti Peled raised the flag in Jerusalem during a convention of the "Palestine-Israel Council for Peace", a movement of which Avneri is also a member.

RAKAH CONGRESS: PALESTINIAN OPTION THE ONLY OPTION

The Israeli Communist Party "Rakah" ended its 19th conference with a statement calling for the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from all the occupied Arab territories and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Rakah condemned the Israeli land confiscation policy and denounced the Camp David Accords because they ignore the Palestinian people's rights. Rakah further stressed that the Palestinian option is the only option which can secure a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. Rakah concluded by affirming that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and that without its recognition as such there could be no just and lasting peace in the region.

The Congress also unanimously approved the report delivered by the party's general secretary Meir Vilner.

On February 13, Mohamed Saidan, spokesman for the Association of Arab Mayors and Mayor of Kfar Mande village, paid tribute to the solidarity of the communist party with the struggle for the implementation of the rights of the Palestinians in Israel. There was much applause at the plenary session for a representative of the Black Panther organisation of oriental Jews, Charly Biton.

Tawfiq Zayyad, mayor of Nazareth and member of the Central Committee of the

Uri Avneri



Addressing the Congress: Meir Vilner, Tawfiq Zayyad

Communist Party, Rakah, also addressed the Congress. Speaking at the final session he said, "We are the primary victims of fascism which is being fostered by racist laws recently drafted by the Knesset". He reiterated support for the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, stressing that arbitrary laws would not prevent Palestinians from being proud of their flag.

The Congress which started in Haifa and was attended by 500 delegates, ended its sessions in Nazareth with the election of the Central Committee. On February 13, the Palestine News Agency Wafa issued a statement saluting the Rakah congress, wishing it success in the cause of confronting Zionism, racism and imperialism. The statement declared:

"Rakah has taken firm stands, both inside and outside the Israeli Knesset, against racist and fascist policies of oppression, terrorism, deportation, land confiscation, and the establishment of settlements in the occupied territories. The party has made notable efforts in confronting these policies, consequently many of the party's members have had to undergo arrest, interrogation and imprisonment. Several distinguished members of Rakah have defended Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails, while standing firm in opposition to the policies of apartheid enforced in occupied Palestine. Rakah has taken a firm stand beside the Palestinian people, upholding their right to return, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state."

ZIONISM IN PRACTICE

Begin Government wants to create *faits accomplis*:

MORE LAND CONFISCATION AND NEW SETTLEMENTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Five months ahead of general elections, in which the bankrupt Begin government is expected to face defeat, it is rushing to build new settlements in the occupied West Bank, in order to block the way for any territorial concessions future governments might ever consider, and to create a de facto situation preventing any peaceful solution. The Israeli government is also seeking to build 3,000 new

houses in settlements already existing on Arab lands.

SIX NEW SETTLEMENTS IN WEST BANK; LAND ROBBERY

The head of the Jewish Agency's Settlement Affairs Department, on February 10, told the Israeli daily *Ma'ariv* that massive financial backing was obtained for the establishment of six new settlements in the occupied West Bank. Execution of the plan is due to begin shortly and will probably be completed by next July, including water and electricity facilities. The six settlements are: Mikhamash, Battir 'B', and Shamron 'B' in the Northern part of the West Bank; Tekvah 'B' and Mitzpeh Jibrin in the Jericho Dead Sea region; and finally the Nani settlement in the Hebron region. At the same time robbery of lands continues in large parts of the occupied territories.

The Israeli authorities annexed, on February 16, the remaining land

of the village of Beit Sakaria, in the Bethlehem district. The land has been given over to two Israeli settlements in the region: Ras Sourif and Elon Shrut. Several houses in the village, which has a population of around 100, have been fenced off with barbed wire by the Israeli authorities, in a blatant attempt to drive them away from their property. The month before the occupation authorities expropriated 700 dunums of land to the West of the village, adding it to the above-mentioned settlements. Several apple orchards and vines belonging to the Palestinian villagers were uprooted in the process.

Al-Bireh Mayor Ibrahim Suleiman al-Tawil has condemned the latest Israeli seizure of approximately 4,000 dunums of land belonging to the town. The seizure order was issued on February 15 on the pretext that the land be used for the establishment of Israeli military camps and other settlements. The Israeli authorities have seized at least 10,000 dunums of land in al-Bireh since 1967.

The Israeli authorities at the same time continued their policy of land seizure and creating territorial *faits accomplis* by annexing land from Salfit, Bourqin and Hares to the Ariel settlement: Land belonging to two Palestinian citizens was annexed to the Givon settlement; while land in the Toubas region was annexed to an Israeli military camp, and 1,500 other dunums (about 400 acres) was seized by the military government, without any pretext being offered.

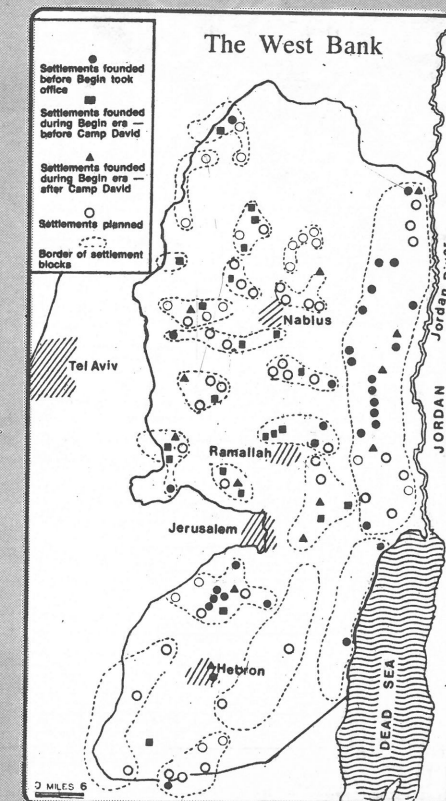
PROTEST AGAINST NEW PROVOCATIONS IN AL-KHALIL

Voices of protest have been raised against the seizure orders, and also against the perfide methods to drive the Palestinian farmers from their lands, like the use of chemicals sprayed from helicopters over trees and fields in order to destroy the crops.

The municipality of al-Khalil (Hebron) condemned, during an emergency meeting held on January

24 the Israeli campaign to annex further land belonging to Palestinians. The municipality condemned the newly-established settlements in and around al-Khalil which are being fully supported by the Israeli government. The meeting also dealt with the forcible takeover of the Debiwiyeh building by Israeli settlers on Wednesday January 28. The settlers numbering around forty, are members of the extremist Gush Emunim gang, who took over the building in order to join it and the surrounding area, to the Kiryat Arba settlement in al-Khalil. In an interview with Radio Israel, one of the Israeli settlers confirmed that they only accepted to evacuate the building after Menahem Begin himself promised to study their demands regarding the annexation of the area.

Following the seizure of over 1,500 dunums of land in Betumia, al-Jeib, Jedira and Rakkat, a local committee of six members was formed in Betumia to defend the seized land. Jewish progressive lawyer Felicia Langer and the Pales-



tinian lawyer Abed 'Asali were appointed to raise the case before

AMERICA — HOME SWEET HOME FOR JEWISH EMIGRATION

1980 has seen the worst figures so far in the history of the Zionist settler state as regards the development of its demographic saldo: Even according to the figures officially released by Zionist circles, emigration from Israel has exceeded immigration for the first time. Jews from the Soviet Union, Europe, America and even among those born in Israel no longer believe that the "Promised Land" of Begin, Sharon, Eytan, Peres, Meir Kahane and the like is the land promised to them and promising them a future.

EMIGRATION FROM SOVIET UNION DOWN BY 58 PERCENT

According to a report in the *New York Times* of January 4, 1981, Jewish emigration "from the Soviet Union declined sharply last year compared with

1979, according to figures released yesterday in New York by the National Conference of Soviet Jewry.... In 1980, 21,471 Jews emigrated via Vienna, a 58 percent decrease from the 51,320 in 1979, said Myrna Shinbaum, the Jewish group's associate director." Moreover, tens of thousands of those Jews which left the Soviet Union with permits to join their families in Israel in reality flock to the United States.

Vienna is the first stop in the West for the Soviet Jewish emigrants and about 70 percent fail to go on to Israel. The Jewish Immigration Committee in Vienna also announced that Jewish immigration to the occupied territories in Palestine has decreased tremendously in comparison to Israelis emigrating to America and Western Europe. The Committee stated on February 7, 1981 that the number of Jews immigrating to occupied Palestine in January was the lowest monthly total in the past ten years and 60 percent of Jews preferred to live outside Israel.

Various factors have led to the high rate of emigration from the Zionist state: this state finds itself in a constant state of war what means month-long annual stints of military reserve duty for the entire youth of the country. In addition comes the insecure situation, under which Israeli citizens live, nourishing doubts about the future of Israel due to its expansionist aggressive policy towards its neighbours. There is not even a dim chance of a



Israeli re-emigrants in Vienna trying to return to U.S.S.R.

change in the future, and that calls for more spending on military hardware and war activities. Add to that the continued guerrilla raids which cost Israel dearly in men and materials. All these factors keep the Israeli economy under great pressure and cause the hikes in the cost of living and an inflation rate which hit the world record and came up to 150 percent.

To their great disappointment, the immigrants, several days after their arrival in the "Promised Land", find out the lack of housing facilities, when

the best living quarters are given to Ashkenazi Jews (Jews of European origin) only while the Sephardim often live in slums. They will soon notice the corruption which has penetrated all branches of the Israeli administration and armed forces. For the immigrants, these reasons make it almost impossible to adjust to a decent life in Israel.

The *Jerusalem Post* reported on March 7, 1980 that during February 1980 2,568 Jews left the Soviet Union; 2,168 of them headed for the United States, the rest for Canada, Australia, New Zealand and for Western European countries. Only 18 went to their Zionist "destination" Israel. These figures raised more worries in the Zionist establishment. The Israeli government in the last years repeatedly urged American Zionist organisations and the U.S. government to restrict access of Jews to the United States and allow only immigration of those Soviet Jews who had "first-degree relatives" in the United States (*New York Times*, January 4, 1981). On April 2, 1980, Israeli Prime Minister Begin lodged a complaint with the U.S. administration urging not to give Soviet Jews visas as political refugees.

On December 15, 1980, the correspondent of the *British Times* reported from Jerusalem that the number of Jewish immigrants from Western Europe was down, too, by 32 percent compared with the same period of year before, despite the recent

ZIONISM IN PRACTICE

an Israeli court. The Israeli authorities have furthermore fenced off 500 dunums of the above-mentioned land.

LAND SEIZURE IN HAIFA

In Haifa, in 48-occupied Palestine, Palestinians residing in the al-Deir quarter refuse to evacuate their homes and property in return for compensation paid by an Israeli company which claims it owns the

property of the mentioned quarter. The Palestinian owners accuse the Israeli authorities of trying to seize their properties and expel them from their land by resorting to illegal and dubious arrangements.

ISRAELI EXTREMISTS WOUND ARAB STUDENTS IN HAIFA

A number of Israeli students, armed with sticks and sharp tools, on February 11, assaulted Arab students in their dormitory in the "Technion" in Haifa, seriously wounding three students, including a female. The assailants, who had already cut off the electric current in the dorms, withdrew within view of Israeli policemen who were stationed near-by and apparently covered the retreat of the racist attackers. The three injured students are Barakat al-Hajj, Atef Umari and Wafa' Elias.

ARSONISTS SET ABLAZE MUFTI'S CAR

Israeli arsonists at 8:00 P.M. on

February 18 set fire to the car of the Mufti of Jerusalem, Saadedine al-Alami; the car was parked in front of his residence in the city. The Mufti is also the Islamic religious judge of Jerusalem.

U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL CONDEMNS ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS

Giving expression to world-wide indignation over the recent drive for new settlements by the Zionist government, U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim on January 28 strongly condemned the increase of settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Dr. Waldheim's official spokesman said that the Israeli government's plans to establish new settlements in the occupied West Bank clearly violate the resolutions of both the U.N. General Assembly and the Security Council. He concluded saying that the establishment of settlements in the occupied territories could only obstruct the achievement of a just peace in the Middle East.

ZIONIST SETTLEMENT IDEOLOGY AND ITS RAMIFICATIONS FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

(Part II)

BY DONALD S. WILL

(The following study has been prepared for the First United Nations Seminar on the Question of Palestine, held in Arusha, Tanzania, 14-18 July 1980. Donald Will heads the UN office of the UN Methodist church in the United States Part I of the study was published in "Palestine" No. 2, 1981)

The most disturbing recent developments in the occupied territories are of a military nature. One of the key figures involved in this aspect is Chief-of-Staff Rafael Eitan. With the resignation of Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, Eitan — never noted for his political acumen — has been thrust into an ever more important role. When Menahem Begin assumed the defense portfolio (and refused to promote Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori) he effectively allowed increased policy formulation to pass on to his chief-of-staff. Eitan had already stirred up a great deal of controversy with the leniency he had shown in the reduction of sentences to Lederman, Pinto, and Sadeh, all of whom had been convicted of killing innocent Arabs. His sympathy to the Gush Emunim has been overt as has his desire to retain the West Bank and Gaza. Eitan considers each settlement a "confrontative settlement" and has restructured the reserve duty of settlers in a foreboding fashion. Rather than serving generally in the Israeli Defense Forces, they now are organized in the Israeli Defense "area defense." Thus they serve in the Occupied Territories particularly and often even in their own immediate vicinity of residence. For example, the Ramallah area is policed primarily by settlers from Ofra, Beit Horon and Beit El. Israeli journalist Yehuda Litani reports that:



"Private" settler armies: "Kach" extremists in their center in occupied Jerusalem

A security source dealing with these matters claims that "they are the best soldiers for this task." He says that the settlers have strong discipline and most important — motivation. For them "a roadblock is a roadblock and a search is a search"... Security sources think that the Area Defense... cannot be called "a private army, but the given data shows that the settlers have the existence of a prepared by the army. There is no need for underground organization. When the governor of Ramallah demanded the arms back from the settlers from Ofra following their "police action" last year, the settlers simply refused. This proved that in critical times the settlers and not the army dictate their will¹⁷.

"PRIVATE" ARMIES

Even should the settlers function as a private army, it is unlikely to disturb the Chief-of-Staff who recently made a "statement that there was nothing near or particularly worrisome in having a private army, almost certainly Jewish, operating separately from his own."¹⁸

His words are echoed by another Rafael Eitan, the advisor to the Prime Minister on the "War against Terror," when he urged,

that every Israeli who enters the territories, and even the Old City of Jerusalem, should carry arms and know how to use them... In my judgment more Israeli civilians must be allowed to carry weapons all the time. Some argue that such a state of affairs will be exploited for the worst purposes. My reply: Already hundreds of thousands of guns are in the hands of I.D.F. personnel, the police and the Israeli civilian sector. An addition of several thousand weapons more will not change matters good or bad in this respect...¹⁹

In stating that there was nothing new about a private army, Chief-of-Staff Eitan could have been speaking historically of the various Zionist paramilitary troops active during the 1940's. His remark, however, is accurate in a contemporary context as well. In May of this year *The Jerusalem Post* was told that "West Bank settlers are preparing to fight the Arab terrorists with or without the army's help... Settlement leaders have decided to form 'regional security committees' which will obtain arms, train settlers and collect information on Arab riots, stone-throwing and incitement." Despite official statements



Israelis queuing for American visas outside U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv

AMERICA SWEET HOME FOR JEWISH EMIGRANTS

upsurge of anti-Semitism in France and a few other European states.

EMIGRATION FROM ISRAEL CONTINUOUSLY RISING

On the other hand, emigration from Israel has been increasing continuously during the past 3 years: An opinion poll conducted for *Yediot Aharonot*, December 16, 1980, showed that 5 percent of Israelis

aged 18 years or more planned to emigrate while another 6 percent answered with "perhaps" to the same question. The result of this and similar other polls are deeply worrying for the Zionist government and its racist policies of throwing the Palestinian people out of the land while trying to replace them by Zionist colonizers. It means that about 200,000 people out of Jewish population of about 3.5 millions are about to leave Israel, at a time when economic prospects are also grim with no immediate hope for recovery.

Statistics can lie, they say, and of course they do. For — how many more "Israelis" have left the country on "vacations" and never come back though still holding Israeli passports? No one can distinguish an emigrant from a tourist on a package tour. An emigrant about to leave Israel is not likely to announce his plans to the passport officer at Ben Gurion airport. The conclusion is that the result of the polls and the figures admitted by the Zionist authorities are the very minimum. The *International Herald Tribune* of December 4, 1980 quoted Israeli sources stating that 32,802 Israelis have left the country and did not come back during the past year. The "State of Israel", an alien entity in the Middle East, amidst its Arab environment which it continues to antagonize, while depending heavily on artificial racist immigration and foreign assistance for its survival, is heading for a dark future.

ZIONIST SETTLEMENT IDEOLOGY AND ITS RAMIFICATIONS FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

that settler sources indicated they would cooperate with the authorities, "...well-informed settler sources indicated they would act if the army should be curbed by political factors."²⁰ Some of the settlers, in order to counteract what they feel to be hostile media coverage, are even exploring the legalities of creating a private broadcasting station for the West Bank.²¹

The extent to which the West Bank settlers have been taking the law into their own hands has reached such great proportions that even the Western media can no longer ignore it. To merely record the incidents of harassment and violence inflicted upon the citizens of Hebron alone by the settlers of Kiryat Arba would take a far longer paper than this. Some of the Israeli press have quite appropriately termed such attacks pogroms.²²

The sympathy of the military authorities for each activities has been demonstrably evidenced by the leniency they have shown towards the perpetrators. In the case of months-old incidents, the fact that no suspects have been apprehended is not easily explained. In *Ha'aretz* Zeev Shif notes the reluctance of the responsible authorities to assiduously investigate the attempted assassinations of the mayors for fear it would lead to established political quarters.²³

POGROMS FAVOURED BY THE GOVERNMENT

What is not so readily apparent is the potential which confrontative settlement, area defense forces, regional security committees, and pogroms hold for bringing about a disintegration within the Israeli military. The settlers, through their overt vigilante actions, have done much to raise the level of violence in the Occupied Territories. Through their demagogic rhetoric and their pogroms, the settler movement — and the Gush Emunim in particular — have helped to legitimize and spawn the underground organizations which are escalating the violence in the Occupied Territories. As *Newsweek* put it, "Violence on the West Bank usually meets with little retribution from the Israeli establishment. For years, officials have allowed Gush Emunim bullies to attack Arabs, and Kahane and his crew seem to enjoy the same prerogatives."²⁴

The most tragic attack by an underground group so far has been the maiming of Mayor Karim Khalaf of

Ramallah and Mayor Bassam al-Shakaa of Nablus. These terrorist attacks, which occurred almost simultaneously with others in Hebron and El-Bireh, are not isolated incidents. As Mayor al-Shakaa said from his hospital bed,

this is another part in the chain of acts of the authorities who want to force upon us the autonomy conspiracy and the Camp David Agreements. It is natural that the authorities won't listen to any call for peace and recognition of the Palestinian people and their national rights. Like any other aggressive state they slip into oppression and terror. Don't forget. The bomb in my car was preceded by the killing of a student in Anabtah on May first by the military governor of Tulkarm. Later he visited the father of the dead student and told him: "I'm sorry that it was your son that was killed; the one that should have been killed was the son of Bassam al-Shakaa and the son of Hilmi Hanoun (the mayor of Tulkarm)."²⁵

The role which Mayor al-Shakaa ascribes to the Israeli authorities in both these attacks should not be overlooked. Given the thorough surveillance of the West Bank Mayors, it is hard to imagine how such well planned attacks could have been carried out without the collusion of the military authorities.

As much an indicator of the rising lawlessness in Israeli society as the attacks themselves are the public responses made to them. Although the Begin govern-



Their aim is to drive the Palestinians in the occupied territories from their lands

ment have formally denounced the terror, various public figures have been far more ambivalent in their remarks.

Yosi Dayan, Meir Kahane's deputy in the Kach movement, expressed enthusiasm for the attacks and was sure they were done by "good Jews." He noted that "apparently the underground continues to function without him (Meir Kahane)."²⁶ The Gush Emunim secretary of Kiryat Arba, Yossi Weiner said "I can't say I'm sad. Until yesterday, we were the ones who had to guard ourselves, to watch out for stones and Molotov cocktails when we walked along the street. The time has come for the Arabs to be afraid too."²⁷ One of the leaders of the Gush Emunim, Rabbi Moshe Levinger said that he felt "safer" after the attempts to assassinate the mayors and that he felt an "understanding" for the men who did it.²⁸ Similar thoughts were echoed at higher levels. *Ha'aretz* reported that "MK Rabbi Haim Druckman (National Religious Party) expressed regret concerning the terror, but noted your enemies perish this." He also said that he would not be terribly saddened if they were to die a natural death."²⁹ Although some of his colleagues rebuked him for these comments, the National Religious Party affiliated newspaper *Hatzofeh* was not above putting out the scam that "The attackers should be sought among the P.L.O..."³⁰

Apparently there are at least two Zionist underground groups operating in the Occupied Territories: the "Sons of Zion" and another connected to Meir Kahane's Kach party. *Newsweek* distinguished between the two: "The membership of the Sons of Zion remains something of a mystery, though it appears to be small, highly professional, well-educated and native. Kahane's Kach, on the other hand, is seen as a dumping ground for young thugs. Some of them never bother to learn Hebrew and they often return home after a few months of hell-raising on the West Bank."³¹

IT IS NOT JUST MEIR KAHANE

Also claiming responsibility for the attacks on the mayors is a group calling itself "Terror Against Terror" (in Hebrew the acronym is TNT). Whether this group is identical to the "Sons of Zion" remains to be seen. However, in a *Ha'aretz* poll asking whether they approved of the tactics of "Terror Against Terror", 36.6% of the Israelis polled said yes.³² The majority of Israelis may not at this time openly condone such flagrantly illegal actions, yet the magnitude of those that do is quite sufficient to sustain a great deal of unlawful activity. The underground will find a great deal of sympathy and support, especially among the settlers in the Occupied Territories.

Even more incredible than the attacks upon the mayors are the potential consequences of the plot to blow up the al-Aqsa Mosque. The intention of this

scheme is not the mere physical or even symbolic destruction of the Mosque. Such an action would quite probably have precipitated a major conflict in the Middle East. From the point of view of the plotters, just such a war is needed to expedite the expulsion of the bulk of the Palestinian population in the Occupied Territories. Kahane and the Gush Emunim have been explicit in their advocacy of such an expulsion. In the words of Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Goren, "Not only kiryat Arba but Hebron must be a Jewish city."³³

Most ominous is the recent warning sounded by former military intelligence chief Gen. (Res.) Aharon Yariv in a speech recently at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He stated that some people already "hope to exploit a situation of war to expel 7-800,000 Arabs... things are being said to this affect, and the means are even being prepared."³⁴

The problem goes well beyond that of fringe groups as Amnon Kapeliuk explains:

Rabbi Kahane is not the problem. He and his gang can easily be taken care of (why not expel him to the U.S.A. for example?); the problem is Gush Emunim and their supporters in the government and the army. As long as they are able to force their wish on everyone the decline will continue. Every new settler in the West Bank is a piece of additional dynamite. Today we already know that the settlers or many of them are driving towards a situation in which the expulsion of the Palestinian inhabitants from the Territories will turn from a nightmare into a terrible reality.³⁵

These plots and provocations are not taking place in a political vacuum. Over the last several months the Israeli press has begun to carry articles warning of creeping fascism.

One indication is the *Tehiya* (or Renaissance) Party which many of the leaders of Gush Emunim had a role in founding. It was created due to dissatisfaction with the Herut and National Religious Party positions on settlement. The ideology of *Tehiya* is one of mystical nationalism and the rhetoric has led some Israeli journalists to compare it with European fascist movements.³⁶

Amnon Kapeliuk, in an insightful article written six months prior to the attack on the Palestinian mayors, notes several worrisome trends: "...the growing activities of the fanatic religious Gush Emunim movement; the positions taken by Minister of Agriculture General Sharon; the foundation of the fascist party Hatehiya, etc..."³⁷ Sharon recently expressed the opinion that security in his eyes was above constitution³⁸ (something Israel does not even have). Begin himself confided to colleagues that he would not appoint Sharon Defense Minister because "He would be liable to put tanks around my office."³⁹ Whatever the wryness of the Prime Minister's comment, the politics of such highly placed officials as Sharon trouble many Israelis.

ZIONIST SETTLEMENT IDEOLOGY AND ITS RAMIFICATIONS FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

ZIONIST TRADITION OF AGGRESSION

Throughout the history of the state of Israel, there have been outbreaks of extralegal and illegal activities. Almost invariably these have been a result of actions of the extreme right wing of the Zionist camp. The policies of Begin's own Herut Party during the formation and early of the state clearly fit this category.⁴⁰ This is why Ben-Gurion confronted them over the Altalena. Often the right has used such tactics to gain disproportionate leverage over policy-formation. They have succeeded in achieving this influence through their abilities to manipulate the political and religious fundamentals of Zionist ideology. Whithin Zionism the only definitive answers to

such key questions as — What are the final borders of Israel? Who has more right to the land? Who is a Jew in the eyes of the state? — have come from relying upon religious formulas. Those with more universalist religious interpretations or more liberal political analyses have not succeeded in putting forward alternatives capable of neutralizing the maximalist arguments. They respond weakly when faced with the question: If history and the Bible entitles us to Haifa, how much more are we entitled to Hebron? Or also the correlative: If we abandon our rights and withdrew from Hebron will we not be forced to withdraw from Haifa?

Virtually all factions within the Zionist movement, in their effort to create the state of Israel, accepted and used — at least in a limited fashion — the historical and religious claims to the land. As a result, the maximalist position has an element of "truth" to it which the moderates are seldom prepared to deny or refute. While in times of relative peace and security, pragmatism may retard the expansionist and exclusivist elements of Zionism, in times of stress and disorder the extremists gain in strength.

At the present, the contradictions of settler colonialism are catching up with Israel. Occupation

and democracy (even for the settler population) do not mix. The requirements of defense and settlement are placing an enormous strain on an economy which has never been self-reliant. The inability to resolve the political contradictions latent in Zionism and the ensuing economic hardship are already evoking calls for greater authoritarianism. The editor-in-chief of the widely read *Yediot Aharonot* commented last September:

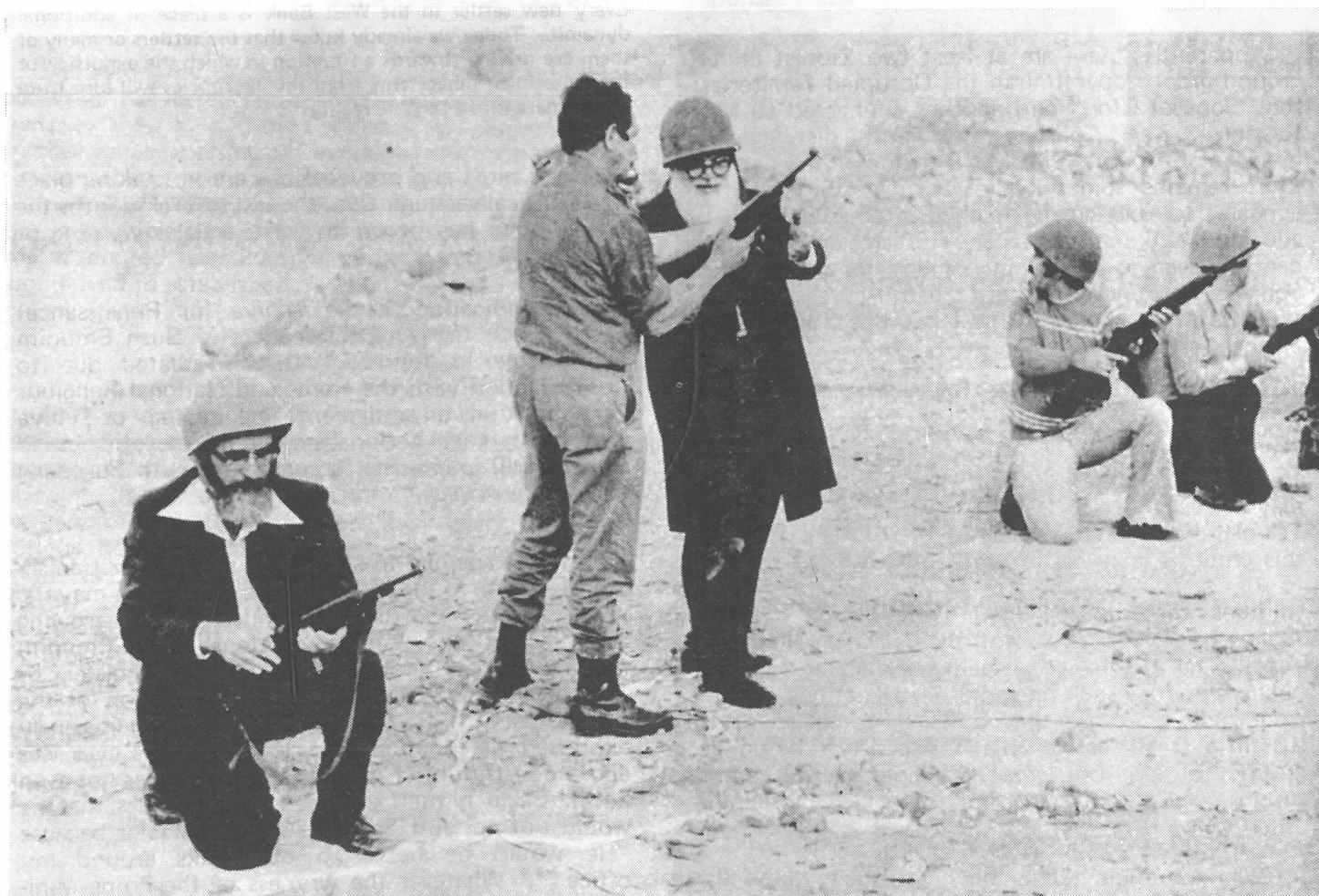
If we cannot obtain economic independence under a democratic regime, we will have to opt for a less democratic rule, provided it is strong enough and firm enough to assure our survival, because our existence is more important than the individual freedom of each one of us.⁴¹

Not only does he call for a more authoritarian regime, he worries lest it not be "strong enough and firm enough." MK Haim Druckman candidly remarked of late that the unity of Eretz Israel is more important than the democracy of dogooders.⁴² Amnon Kapeliuk describes the danger:

Democratic principles are the first to suffer from this crisis atmosphere. Certain quarters increasingly flout democratic laws in the name of what they call their "idealism." They consider themselves in effect to be above the law and proclaim themselves representatives of a "divine authority." Their

nationalist ideology, coloured by religious fanaticism, consists of an unshakable determination to annex officially and definitively all the Arabs territories in the regions occupied since 1967... The religious authorities almost as a body provide moral support and a "religious cover" to the ideology and methods of the extreme rightwing nationalist groups. We have not heard of a single rabbi who, in regard to Israeli occupation of the occupied territories, has condemned or even mentioned the immoral aspect of the domination of one people by another.⁴³

Dissident Israelis may someday find themselves living under the same political oppression as their Palestinian neighbors. A countervailing force to the maximalists has yet to coalesce in Israel. The Peace Now movement is neither ready to respond to the right with the extralegal tactics of the Gush Emunim nor is it capable of manipulating the historical imperatives of Zionism for its own end. Even should the Labor Party defeat Likud in the next election, it is likely to find itself politically hamstrung by the right. In the past Labor has shown itself no more inclined toward resolving the inherent political dilemma of living with the Palestinians than has the Likud. It is unlikely that any new government will break with the past sufficiently to come to grips with the right of the Palestinian people to self-



Settlers arming old people



Arming children at Kiryat Arba' settlement near al-Khalil (Hebron)

ZIONIST SETTLEMENT IDEOLOGY AND ITS RAMIFICATIONS FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

determination which is an obvious prerequisite to peace.

The Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, already the victims of creeping expansionsim and expropriation, must prepare themselves for another danger emanating from the settler movement. They must anticipate the possibility that the Gush Emunim and its rightist allies will through illegal and fascistic methods precipitate a conflict which will be used as a cover for the forcible expulsion of Palestinians from the Occupied Territories. An expulsion through such a means will likely enjoy the support of elements of Israeli society beyond the right who will welcome the resolution of the last thirteen years' paradox. Such events would destroy the possibility of achieving peace through the establishment of a Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza. Continued settlement and expropriation already have almost rendered this irrelevant. The Palestinians for their part must secure allies and find means of defense (political means may prove as effective as military means against the powerful Israeli army).

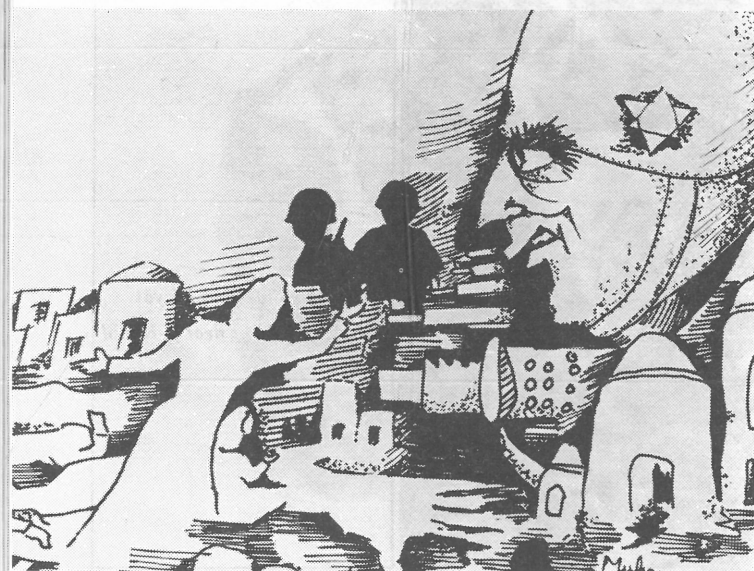
Historical examination reveals that the settlement movement (and the Gush Emunim particularly) has roots deep in the philosophy of Zionism. It draws strength from these in the present moment, yet it also beats the seeds of self-destruction. It has the potential for inflicting further hardship and dispossession upon the Palestinians and, ironically, may bring unseen



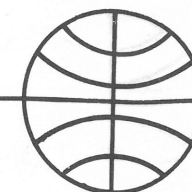
Who pulls the strings?
Settlement minister Ariel Sharon with Gush Emunim leader Katzover

grief to the Jewish people as well. Virtually the entire world has recognized the illegality and injustice of the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories. For the peace of all, settlement must be halted and the right of the Palestinians to self-determination realized through a state of their own.

16. *Jerusalem Post*, 16 November 1979.
17. Yehuda Litani, *Ha'aretz*, 16 May 1980.
18. Hirsh Goodman, *Jerusalem Post Magazine*, 13 June 1980.
19. Baruch Meiri, *Ma'ariv*, 18 September 1979.
20. Joshua Brilliant, *Jerusalem Post*, 11-17 May 1980.
21. Yehuda Litani, *Ha'aretz*, 16 May 1980.
22. E.G., Nahum Barnea in *Davar*, 9 May 1980. Among the best complications of such events are the monthly occupied territories chronicles to be found in the journal *Israel & Palestine* published in Paris.
23. *Ha'aretz*, 6 June 1980.
24. *Newsweek*, International Edition, 16 June 1980.
25. Amnon Kapeliuk, *Al-Hamishmar*, 4 June 1980.
26. *Ha'aretz*, 3 June 1980. From *Israleft*, 13 June 1980.
27. *Newsweek*, International Edition, 16 June 1980. Yossi Dayan also credits Chief Rabbi Goren for his rapid release from prison the one time he was jailed.
28. *Jerusalem Post*, 4 June 1980. From *Israleft*, 13 June 1980.
29. *Ha'aretz*, 3 June 1980. From *Israleft*, 13 June 1980.
30. *Hatzofeh*, editorial, 3 June 1980. From *Israleft* 13 June 1980.
31. *Newsweek*, International Edition, 16 June 1980.
32. *New York Times*, 21 June 1980.
33. *Jerusalem Post* International Edition, 30 December 1979-5 January 1980.
34. *Ha'aretz*, 23 May 1980.
35. *Al-Hamishmar*, 16 May 1980.
36. Cf. *Jerusalem Post*, International Edition, 13-19 April 1980; Amnon Kapeliuk, *Le Monde Diplomatique*, No. 309 (Dec. 1979). The latter is translated to English and reprinted in the *Journal of Palestine Studies* 35, Vol. IX, No. 3, Spring 1980. Also cf. *Ha'aretz*, 23 October 1979 and *Ma'ariv*, 24 October 1979.
37. Kapeliuk, *Le Monde Diplomatique*, op. cit.
38. *Ha'aretz*, 13 June 1980.
39. *Newsweek* International Edition, 16 June 1980.
40. Cf. Eliahu Selter, *Ha'aretz*, 6 June 1980.
41. *Yediot Aharonot*, 14 September 1979. Quoted in Kapeliuk, *Le Monde Diplomatique*, op. cit.
42. *Ha'aretz*, 13 June 1980.
43. Kapeliuk, *Le Monde Diplomatique*, op. cit.



WORLD EVENTS



REAGAN'S NEW DEAL

Militarization Program, Cuts in Social Spending

In a frantic drive to halt the course of history and regain military superiority for U.S. imperialism the world over, the new Reagan administration is indulging in soaring armaments programs. While the economic and social problems are mounting at home, with millions of people out of work and the rest of the population seeing their net income reduced during the last year, the latest saviors in the White House are proposing huge increases in military spending, "boosting the Pentagon's share of the federal budget to 32.4 (!) percent by 1984 from 24.1 percent in 1981". (*International Herald Tribune*, February 19, 1981.) At the same time, the Reagan administration on February 19 put before Congress a program providing for cuts in the overall federal spending by \$41 billion. Significant tax reductions will be granted to big business, while social and welfare programs will be cut down. This will also further increase the number of jobless people. In the work force of the federal government alone, 60,000 jobs may be destroyed. (*Washington Post*, February 14, 1981.) On the other hand, 10,000 people are to be newly employed in the Army, despite Reagan's hiring freeze for public services.

The new military budget calls for an immediate increase of \$32 billion over Jimmy Carter's already inflated proposed budgets for this year and the next fiscal year that begins Oct. 1. In the fiscal year 1982 military spending is to reach \$220,000,000,000.

The additional armaments program calls for new nuclear-powered aircraft carriers, guided missile cruisers, attack submarines, intruder attack planes, Prowler electronic warfare planes, development of a new long-range strategic bomber and more gear for the Marine Corps. At the same time, the U.S. is pressing its "allies" in Western Europe and Japan to join in the renewed armaments delirium. The economic and social impacts of this policy can only be catastrophic for both the American people and those of the allied countries. Its strategic impacts are rather dubious. The U.S. can no longer control the world militarily. And the attempt to uphold reactionary policies and regimes in Central and Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, Far East Asia and elsewhere by virtue of military power and intervention everywhere, may well result in the accelerated collapse of this sort of imperialist strategy.

Reagan Labels Liberation Movements "International Terrorism"

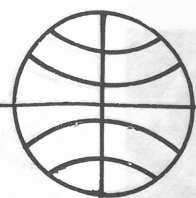
At his first formal news conference on January 30, 1981, the new actor in the White House declared that the U.S. would increase the fight against what he called "international terrorism", and at the same time accused the Soviet Union of supporting the latter. From the context of President Reagan's speech and similar remarks made by his new Secretary of State, Alexander Haig, it becomes clear that he considers any armed struggle of suppressed people fighting against racism, occupation, old and new colonialism and for their national liberation "terrorism".

This slander of the people of Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Middle East is intended to make us forget the innumerable crimes committed by the U.S. and the CIA in many countries of the Third World. In a comment on February 2, the Soviet news agency Tass retorted: "The tracks of the criminals lead to the United States...U.S. leaders themselves back the granting of a free hand abroad, meaning the elevation of terrorism to the rank of state policy... 'The Shah got the throne back in 1953 thanks to a coup organized and financed by the CIA,' Tass recalled adding that more than 60,000 Iranians had been killed by the Shah's Savak set up with the CIA's and Israeli assistance. U.S. intelligence services have also assassinated or overthrown foreign political leaders such as Patrice Lumumba, of the Congo, Salvadore Allende of Chile, attempted to kill Fidel Castro of Cuba, and were implicated in the assassination of President John Kennedy, Sen. Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King and many other participants in the anti-war and democratic movement in the U.S. itself.

Pentagon Expert to Prop up Salvadoran Junta

The Reagan administration on February 6, 1981, appointed Frederic L. Chapin, a specialist for U.S. military intervention abroad, acting head of the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador. The *New York Times* quoting Pentagon sources on February 2, 1981, interpreted this as indicating "an early decision by the Reagan administration on expanding military aid" to the junta there. Mr. Chapin had been ambassador to Ethiopia until last August, when he was assigned to the Defense Department as "deputy assistant secretary for international security affairs" in the Latin American region. At the Pentagon, Mr. Chapin was involved in the preparation of plans for a large military intervention program for El Salvador, including training camps in Panama and a score of helicopter gunships for a mobile brigade to combat the National Liberation Front.

WORLD EVENTS



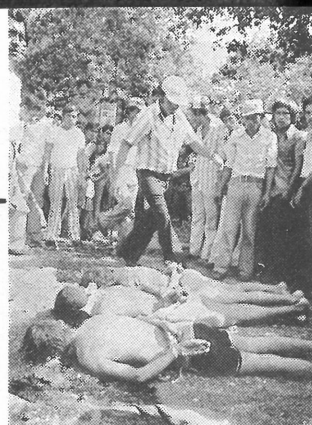
SAN SALVADOR: MILITARY CONFLICT THREATENS TO EXTEND

The revolutionary offensive of the National Liberation Front (FMLN) of El Salvador, launched in January, has been successful, said a statement of the FMLN high command circulated in San Salvador on January 24. The fighting power of the Liberation Front in the first stage of its offensive made "patriotically-minded officers and soldiers leave the junta forces and fight at the side of their brothers against the real enemy of our people," the statement added. It praises the workers who followed the strike call in the capital San Salvador, but at the same time it stated that the FMLN did not succeed in carrying out such powerful actions as were necessary to achieve a total strike and the breaking out of a popular uprising. The statement calls on the population to prepare for the fighting to come.

The statement of the high command of the Liberation Front of El Salvador condemned the sending of U.S. military advisers, weapons and ammunitions to support the junta and denounced the threats made by U.S. imperialism against the Nicaraguan people. All intervention plans seriously threaten to extend the military conflict to the whole of Central America and are therefore a danger to world peace, the statement says. Finally the FMLN high command expresses its deep conviction that international solidarity against U.S. imperialism will be further strengthened and calls on all patriots to

PRESIDENT CASTRO: REAGAN ADMINISTRATION THREATENS WORLD PEACE

Cuban President Fidel Castro on January 20 warned against the danger which the new U.S. government is posing for world peace, taken into account its hitherto issued declarations. The Cuban leader noted that the statements made by the leading figures of the new administration puts it at the head of the most reactionary circles which instigate vengeance and portend to restore the imperialist domination in the face of a world and realities which reflect irreversible changes. Addressing a ceremony graduating local militia units in the towns of Guisa and Bayamo in western Cuba, the ceremony contrasted with the pomp of the ceremony of the inauguration of the new U.S. government. He pointed out that in the United States the new government which represents a threat to peace as well as to the majority of the population of North America too, enters office with the pomp characteristic of decadent empires.



Preparing for another Vietnam in El Salvador?

intensively prepare the new stage of the popular struggle.

U.S. GRAIN EMBARGO AGAINST NICARAGUA

The grain embargo imposed by the USA against Nicaragua on February 12 was not only a breach of contract but an inhuman action, Nicaraguan foreign trade minister Dionicio Marengo declared in Managua on February 13, 1981. In its effort to overcome the heavy burdens left behind by the ousted Somoza dictatorship, his country depended on international support and grain was urgently needed for providing his people with bread. It was very sad that with a policy of starving out Nicaragua Washington now wanted to force it to pursue a pro-American policy the minister stressed.

SOUTH AFRICAN MERCENARIES RAID MOZAMBIQUE

South African commandos on January 30 raided homes of exiled South Africans in the suburbs of the Mozambican capital and killed at least nine members of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa. They brutally mutilated their victims. At least six of the invaders were killed by members of the Mozambican Popular Liberation Forces. On the same day, diplomats and journalists accredited in Maputo were given the opportunity to see the scene of the attack. A Portuguese specialist working in Mozambique was also killed. Arms and equipment were left at the scene of the crime which allows the conclusion that especially drilled commandos had been employed there. Mozambique's deputy defence minister, lieutenant-general Armando Gubuza, called the raid a criminal act directed against his country's sovereignty. A communique of the general staff of the Popular Liberation Forces says that Mozambique's armed and security forces are in full control of the situation.

The U.N. Special Committee against Apartheid called on the Security Council on February to impose effective sanctions against South Africa in accordance with chapter seven of the U.N. Charter. The move is to force the Pretoria racists to cease their aggressive actions against independent African states and the occupation of Namibia.

SOLIDARITY



BENGALI AWAMI PARTY EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY

The Vice-President of the Bengali Awami Party, Mr. Abdel Malek, has expressed his support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people and for the PLO as their sole legitimate representative, denouncing all attempts at creating alternatives to the PLO. Abdel Malek was addressing the party's general conference in Dacca on February 14, which was attended by several representatives of Bengalese progressive and nationalist parties, ambassadors and a PLO delegation.

I.T.U.C. CONDEMNS ISRAELI DETENTION OF TRADE UNION LEADERS

From 7th to 8th of February, 1981, the Permanent Secretariat of the International Trade Union Committee of Solidarity with the Workers and People of Palestine held its meeting in Accra at the invitation of the Organisation of African Trade Union Unity. Representatives of the Organisation of African Trade Union (OATUU), the International Confederation of Arab Trade Union (ICATU), the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) and Palestine Trade Unions Federation (PTUF) participated in the meeting. The Secretariat discussed the current situation of the Palestinian question and hailed the achievements made by the PLO. At the Secretariat underlined the gravity of the situation in the occupied territories of Palestine because of the feverish attempts by Israel, supported by the United States of America, to perpetuate its policy of occupation. Israel is continuing to confiscate land from the Arab population in order to establish Jewish settlements and to control the hydrological resources. This practice led to the evacuation of the population and particularly the Arab labor forces from their lands.

Recent events showed the increased Israeli repression and oppression against the Arab workers which led to the detention of many trade unionists including the Secretary General of Trade Unions in the West Bank, Adel Ghanem and the Chairman of the Printers Union in Nablus, Mahmoud al-Sharbini. This is in flagrant violation of the International Labour Conventions which call for trade union freedom. Moreover, the Israeli authorities continue in their daily raids and aggressions against the Palestinian camps in the Arab Countries and especially in Southern Lebanon.

The Secretariat, in the name of tens of millions of workers of the world, strongly condemns the recent statement of the President of the United States that his Administration will give unconditional support to Israel and to ensure the US military presence in the Middle East. The joint Israeli - US policies are not only a big danger to Palestinian people or to the peoples of the area but they are posing a serious danger to world peace and security. Therefore, these policies should be totally condemned by all freedom and peace-loving forces all over the world.

The Secretariat has formulated a Programme of Action to mobilize the forces of the world trade union movement to support and continue their solidarity with the workers and people of Palestine.

It agreed to send delegations of the Permanent Secretariat to several African countries to get in touch with the trade union organizations there in order to explain the developments of the Palestine question and the arbitrary oppressive measures are to which the Arab workers in Palestine and in the occupied territories are subjected to. In addition to this, the delegation will expose the unholy alliance between the two racist regimes of Pretoria and Tel Aviv which is directed against the people and workers in Africa and the Arab World.

The Secretariat decided to issue its own periodical which will explain the developments of the Palestine question from a trade union point of view. It will also expose the racist practices of the occupation forces against the Arab workers and their trade union organizations. It will further explain the real reasons for the establishment of Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

The Secretariat took the opportunity of its meeting in Accra to condemn the barbaric raid on the houses of the African National Congress

SOLIDARITY

(ANC) militants in Mozambique by the racists in South Africa. This kind of raid reminds us of the raids carried out by the Israeli forces against the Palestinian camps in Southern Lebanon.

The Secretariat calls on all workers and trade union organizations of the world to step up their solidarity actions with the workers and people of Palestine and further urges them to organise weeks of information and solidarity meetings with the Palestinian workers and people.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE SUPPORTS PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

The International Youth and Students Conference, held in Helsinki between January 18-23, has issued a document declaring support for the Palestinian cause. The document stressed the need for a just peace in the Middle East securing the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination and to the establishment of a state on their soil.

PARIS STUDENTS SIT-IN TO PROTEST SADAT VISIT

On February 11, Arab students staged a sit-in in the Arab League offices in Paris to protest against Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat's visit to France. The students, who represented various student unions, including the Libyan, Egyptian, Lebanese and Palestinian ones, arrived at the building early in the morning, and occupied the premises of the Arab League, situated in the 2nd and 3rd floors of the building. They were expected to hold a press conference to explain the motives behind the sit-in.

UN ISSUES STAMPS ON PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

The United Nations Postal Administration issued a new set of commemorative stamps on January 30, 1981, on the theme "Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People." The new stamps are issued in accordance with a resolution of the UN General Assembly. Since 1947, the United Nations General Assembly repeatedly has dealt with the Palestine question. In 1974 it reaffirmed in particular the rights of the Palestinian people including:

- a) The right to self-determination without any foreign interference;
- b) The right to national independence and sovereignty;

c) The inalienable right of the Palestinians to return to their homes and property from which they have been displaced and evicted.

The new stamps will be printed in the following denominations, quantities and colours:

15 cents	1,900,000	green, black, yellow, pink
F.s. 0,80	1,900,000	yellow, black, red, purple
S4	2,100,000	grey, red, yellow, purple

The stamps were designed by David Dewhurst, U.S.A., and will be printed in photo-gravure by Helio Courvoisier, S.A., Switzerland. The stamps will measure 36 mm. horizontally x 25.7 mm. vertically, perforation to perforation: 11% x 11 1/2.



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Wenche Blomberg Appelsinenes land

"THEY'RE BUILDING OVER THE RIDGE"

NORWEGIAN CHILDREN'S BOOK ON PALESTINE:

In the following we publish chapter 4 translated from a new Norwegian children book "Appelsinenes land" (The Land of the Oranges). The book by Wenche Blomberg with drawings by Guro Giske was published by the progressive October publishing house in Oslo. It tells the story of a small Palestinian girl, Dalal, whose family, village and world is upset by the Zionist occupation of Palestine in 1948:

Early one grey and cold morning Dalal woke, hearing voices. She heard that her father and grandfather went out with other men. She hurried and got dressed.

Her mother crossed the yard carrying fresh, hot bread. Dalal looked around curiously.

— Why are you up so early? She shuddered slightly, pulling her jersey over her hands. — Have you made bread already?

— We didn't sleep much, her mother said. — There were people here, wanting food. They are fighting in the North along the railway.

— Has Father gone there?

— No. They're on guard by the road and along the orange groves. I wanted you to stay home from school today, but Father said to go as usual.

Dalal saw that her mother was tired. — I'm coming straight home to Hamid, she said.

— You're a big, good girl, Dalal. Her mother smiled. — Eat now, and get warm. Will you help me mash peas before you go, then you'll have fresh homus when you get home?

It was drizzling when they got to school. They were allowed to go into the classroom in poor weather. They waited for the teacher, longer than usual.

At last she came. She walked slowly up in front of the blackboard. Then she turned to them, straightening her white kerchief. She looked from one to the other as if she wanted to greet each one.

— Go home again, children, she said. — The school is closing for a few days, we don't know how long. There will be other, important things to do for all of us. We must defend the land and the villages. Go home and do as you're told. We'll meet again.

No school!

It seemed incredible. They stood outside, swinging their bags.

— I'm sure it's because of the shooting. There is war beyond Lydda, said Dalal.

Let's climb the hill! Aisha exclaimed. Perhaps we can see something!

Wenche
Blomberg

Appelsinenes land

— I promised Mother to look after Hamid, said Dalal.

— She doesn't expect you yet, Aisha said. — We won't be long. Come on!

The rain had stopped. They hurried through the village and turned up the path behind the Mosque. First past some old olive trees and then up through thorny shrubs, growing in wide patches all the way up the hill.

They stopped, looking down at the village. All was



quiet in the gravel pit. The stonebreaking-machine stood still.

— Let's go right up, said Aisha. — As a matter of fact I know where the cave is, the one the boys found.

They continued up a narrow and twisting sheep track past big stones and shrubbery.

— At last they were up. Dots of mist floated above the valley and the ridge beyond. The road to Ramleh and Jerusalem was down there somewhere, but they couldn't see it.

— Look! Look over there!

— They all jumped as Gada cried out. They turned, not understanding.

— Surely those are houses! Aisha cried. — Where on earth have they come from?

— It looks like a tall fence, Dalal said. Her knees suddenly felt funny.

— Two houses. And a tall stockade round them, Gada said. But why are those houses out there, in the bushes?

— Aisha could hardly stand still. — Mustafa and some of his friends were up here yesterday, she said. They didn't say anything when they came down about houses up in the hills.

— Slowly, an idea came to Dalal.

— Perhaps . . . it is as Grandfather said. It must be the strangers.

They stood gaping at this discovery. There was no one to be seen by the new buildings.

— They've come here, Dalal said softly. Her knees kept trembling.

— What shall we do? Gada asked anxiously.

— We must run home and tell, Aisha decided.

They ran, Aisha streaking out ahead. They stumbled down through sliding gravel and sand, slipped and jumped. Only one thing mattered; getting home and telling the grown-ups about what they had seen — that the new Jews and all the dangers they'd been told about were closing in, only just beyond the ridge.

Dalal came rushing in, making her mother jump.

— But Dalal...My dear child, what's happened? Why are you home now? And what a sight!

— But, Mother, Mother! Dalal cried. — the strange Jews have come! Listen! They are over the ridge, building houses!

Sit down, her mother ordered. She pulled Dalal

over to the window, and sat down on the cushions, next to her. — What's this about houses?

She listened patiently to the whole story, slowly piecing it together. Then she rose, taking down a towel which she handed to Dalal:

— Go and wash. Look after Hamid and feed him. I'll be back soon. You stay here.

She caught up her shawl and left.

Dalal just sat there. She had barely caught her breath after running down the hill. Under the table Hamid sat, mumbling and playing with his little white wooden horse. He tried to make it go round one of the table legs.

— I wonder where uncle Hassan is, Dalal thought. Will he be told about the strangers coming to Kulieh too?

— He'll come, she comforted herself. He'll be bound to come with his men. He'll sit on Thair and it'll be as if they had wings.



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ADMINISTRATION POSTALE DE L'ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES

Palestine

P.L.O.
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ISRAELI CRIMES
— HOW LONG ARE THEY TO GO ON?

ONE OF THE CHILDREN WOUNDED IN ISRAELI AIR RAID AGAINST SOUTH LEBANON, MARCH 2, 1981