



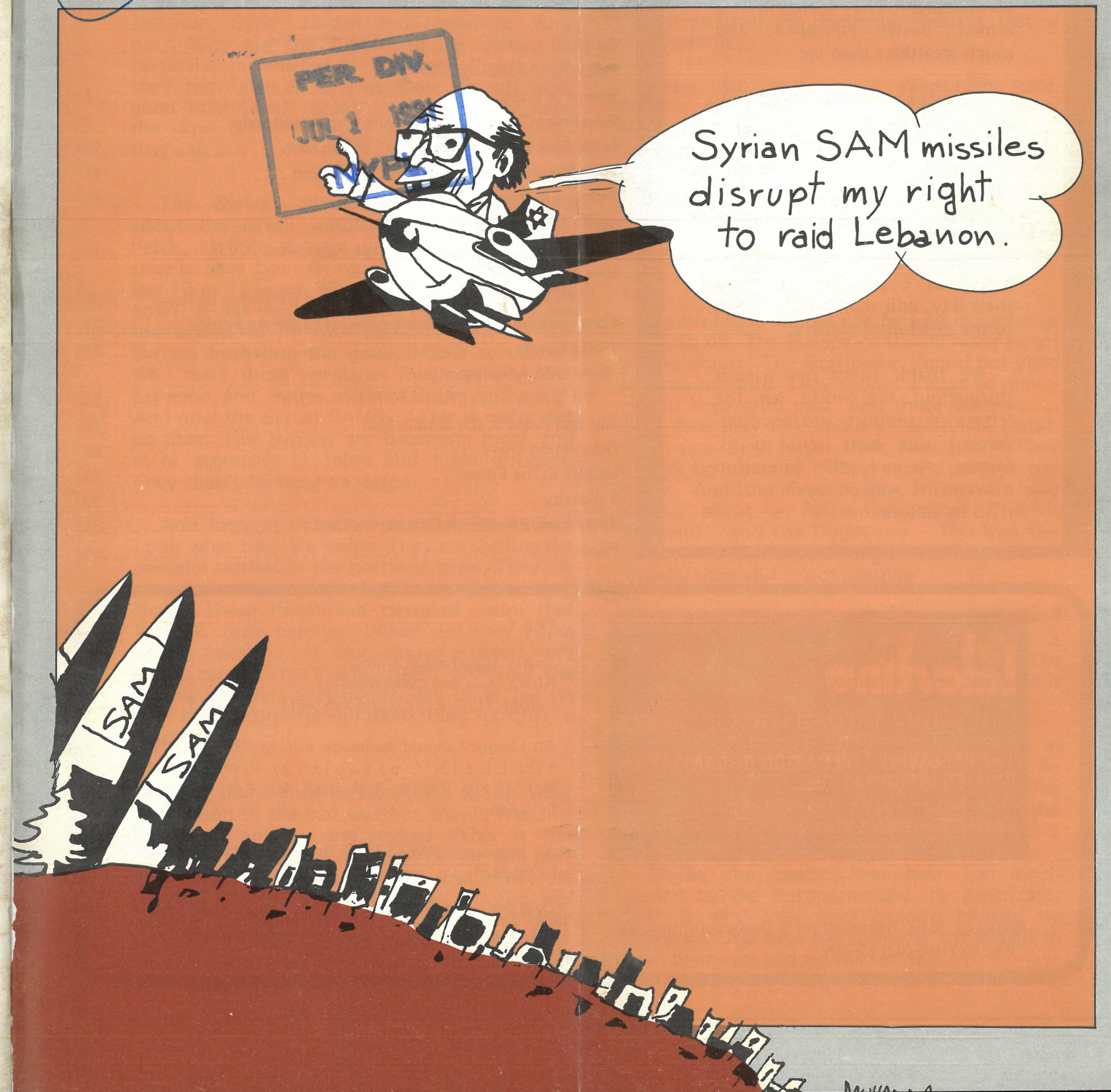
LAND DAY

March 30th

Palestine

P.L.O.
information
bulletin

16th — 31st May 1981
Vol. 7, No. 9



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

SYRIAN MISSILES OR ISRAELI ARROGANCE

Israel should be given the right to fly over Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and elsewhere. Why not? Why are the Arabs and the Syrians in particular so sensitive about Israeli flights over their territories as long as those aircraft have good intentions? Israeli overflights only have the aim of surveillance and reconnaissance, that's all...

The Syrians should show understanding about the Israeli warplanes flying over their heads. Nothing serious ... Nothing new ... The Israelis have been flying over Lebanon for the last 10 or 15 years. Why should they be stopped now? It has become now an acquired right for the Israelis to fly over Lebanon. Why are the Syrians bothering the good Israelis so much? Why can't those warplanes fly peacefully over Lebanon and Syrian without being bothered? And now the Syrian SAMs ... This is really not possible. The Syrians are becoming more and more aggressive ... more and more arrogant. They should be taught a lesson.

And look at those terrorists of the PLO ... Look what they are doing. They are shelling the peaceful settlers in the north of Israel. They are sometimes attacking the northern settlements of Israel. Those Palestinian terrorists claim that Israel is their country. Where did they come from? Palestine has been always a desert, and unpopulated. That's why Begin promised the northern settlers that bombs will never fall on their heads again. He will teach those terrorists a lesson ...

But... there must be something wrong. Why, in addition to the bad weather, should Washington say "no"? ...and twice? This is not possible. The Israelis are good people and have good intentions in the Middle East. They are sticking to the Old Testament. Judea and Samaria are Israeli territories. They were given to Israel by God, Jehova. Gaza also belongs to Israel and also the Golan Heights. And Jerusalem

... Oh ... Jerusalem should be the unified eternal capital of Israel. No discussion about it. Out of the question ...

There will never be a Palestinian state. Never ... A state ruled by Arafat? This terrorist? This communist? Never. Israel should never accept a new Moscow base in the Middle East. A new Cuba. Then a Palestinian state means automatically the destruction of Israel. If the Palestinians want a state for their own, they should go and take over Jordan. Israel should never allow the creation of a new state between Israel and Jordan.

Jewish blood should not be sold in exchange for Arab oil. The Europeans should never forget the holocaust. The Europeans should not yield to Arab pressure. They should always be reminded of their grim past. And those Germans ... How dare they talk about a Palestinian state? How dare they forget their Nazi past? They should be ashamed. They should always feel guilty. And the French too ... They are also talking about a Palestinian state ... This is shameful ... and the Dutch too ... This Van Der Klaauw, he is also becoming a PLO man ... This is really shameful ... not possible ...

The Israelis don't understand the world anymore. They are confused. The world is changing. Israel's arguments are fading. The response to Israel's arguments is no more as it has been in the fifties, sixties and seventies.

And now back to the Syrian missiles in Lebanon. Israel wants those missiles to be removed, but why is the world not responding to Israeli wishes and desires? And why has the U.S. not responded to Israeli desires up to this moment?

Maybe the Israelis have been too much spoiled by the Europeans and the Americans. That is why they have become blinded by arrogance. The time has come for the Israelis to open their eyes and see the realities.

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PALESTINE CHRONOLOGY

MAY 12

THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED ITS APPROVAL TO OPEN A P.L.O. OFFICE IN HELSINKI. The office, to be opened within the next two months, will enjoy full diplomatic recognition.

YASSER ARAFAT, CHAIRMAN OF THE PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE FORCES OF THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION, MET WITH THE IRAQI PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSSEIN. The meeting was attended on the Iraqi side by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz; Na'im Haddad, President of the Iraqi National Council; and Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr. Sa'doun Hamadi; and on the Palestinian side by Fateh Central Committee member Hani al-Hassan and the PLO representative in Baghdad.

The two-hour meeting dealt with the dangerous situation facing the Arab nation and the Palestinian Revolution, in the light of Israeli military concentrations and continuing attacks against the Palestinian and Lebanese people.

MAY 13

CHAIRMAN ARAFAT SENT A CABLE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO FRANÇOIS MITTERRAND ON HIS ELECTION TO THE FRENCH PRESIDENCY. Arafat expressed the hope that under Mitterrand's leadership, France would follow a policy of supporting the rights of the peoples of the world, especially the Palestinian right to self-determination.

MAY 14

CHAIRMAN ARAFAT SENT A CABLE TO POPE JOHN PAUL II WISHING HIM A QUICK RECOVERY FOLLOWING THE ATTEMPT ON HIS LIFE.

In his cable, Chairman Arafat strongly condemned the attack and thanked God for saving the Pope and enabling him to resume his efforts for the achievement of world peace.



CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT MET WITH THE ALGERIAN PRESIDENT AL-CHADLI BEN JEDID. FATEH CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABU IYYAD AND ABU AL-HOL, also attended the meeting, which lasted 3 hours. Discussions centered on the need for immediate Arab reaction and for a decisive Arab stand in the light of the latest Zionist escalation, threats and military concentrations in south Lebanon. The talks also dealt with developments in the Arab region and their repercussions on the Palestine cause.

ABU JIHAD, MEMBER OF FATEH CENTRAL COMMITTEE, RECEIVED A DELEGATION OF VIETNAMESE JOURNALISTS AND WRITERS, currently visiting Beirut. He briefed them about the daily struggle of the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories against Israeli terrorist practices.

Abu Jihad moreover confirmed to the Vietnamese delegation that the Palestinian Revolution will continue its struggle against U.S. imperialism and its client Israel until the Palestinian people regain their national rights, including the right to establish an independent state on their national soil. Abu Jihad finally conveyed to the Vietnamese delegation the greetings of Arafat and of all Palestinian militants to the Vietnamese government and people.

PLO POLITICAL DEPARTMENT HEAD FAROUK KADDOUMI LEFT ABU DHABI AFTER A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH OFFICIALS IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. The meetings dealt with the latest developments in the area, especially the critical situation in Lebanon and the escalating Israeli aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese people and the Arab Deterrent Forces.

YASSER ARAFAT ARRIVED IN LIBYA ACCOMPANIED BY FATEH CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABU IYYAD AND ABU AL-HOL AFTER A SHORT TRIP TO ALGERIA. They were met at Tripoli Airport by Libyan Foreign Minister Ali al-Treiki.

IN TRIPOLI, ARAFAT ATTENDED A POLITICAL MASS RALLY ON THE OCCASION OF MAY 15, at which he delivered a speech calling for general mobilization of the Palestinian people. He said that Israeli troop concentrations in south Lebanon are increasing daily, and that Israel is only awaiting a green light from the USA to continue the US-Zionist conspiracy in the region. Arafat then stressed that Begin's arrogant and provocative statements will only increase the determination of Syria and the Palestinian Revolution to pursue the struggle until victory.

LIBYAN PRESIDENT MUAMMAR AL-QADHAFI in turn delivered a speech, stressing his stand at the side of the Palestinian Revolution until victory. Representatives of the various Palestinian organizations also attended the rally.

MAY 17

ARAFAT RECEIVED THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON, ALEXANDER SOLDATOV, WHO HANDED HIM A MESSAGE FROM THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP. During the meeting discussion centred on the latest developments in the Middle East region, in the light of the Israeli military escalation against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and Syria.

MAY 18

ABU AL-HOL, MEMBER OF THE FATEH CENTRAL COMMITTEE, MET WITH TUNISIAN PREMIER MOHAMMAD MAZALI. THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN TUNIS ALSO ATTENDED THE MEETING.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the latest developments of the situation in the area, and the continuous Israeli attacks on Lebanese towns, villages and Palestinian refugee camps, and the Israeli-Phalangist conspiracy aimed at the Palestinian Revolution.

MAY 20

CHAIRMAN ARAFAT MET WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAFEZ AL-ASSAD. The meeting, which was attended by Khaled al-Fahoum, President of the PNC, Abdel Muhsin Abu Maizar, member of the PLO Executive Committee, and Abu Iyyad and Abu Mahir, members of the Fateh Central Committee, discussed current developments in the Arab region, in the light of Israel's military threats against the Palestinian Revolution, Syria and the Lebanese National Movement.

The meeting also dealt with the Phalangist gangs' attacks, supported by imperialism and Zionism, and the necessity of adopting a decisive Arab position to confront the situation.



Chairman Arafat, President Al-Qadhafi and Palestinian leaders attend mass rally in Tripoli

EVENTS IN PHOTOS



with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein



with Algerian President Al-Chadli Ben Jedid



Fateh Central Committee members Abu Walid and Abu Jihad in Algeria for talks with government leaders



Chairman Arafat with Libyan President Muammar Al-Qadhafi



Palestinian Trade Unionists Visit Britain and Italy.

SCOTTISH TRADE UNION CONGRESS SUPPORTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN STATE, URGES BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE P.L.O.

From April 17th to May 6th, a delegation of the Genral Union of Palestinian Workers (GUPW) comprising Zeid Wahbeh, the secretary of GUPW, Musa El Jeries, the official responsible for external relations, and Mahmoud Isa, member of the administrative board, paid a visit to Britain.

This was the first official visit of the GUPW to Britain. It was organized largely by Trade Union Friends of Palestine (T.U.F.P.) with the assistance of numerous Trade Union members and officials in Britain.

The invitation was offered by the Scottish Trade Union Congress Central Council. The delegation, which was organized by Trade Union Friends of Palestine in England, Scotland, and Wales, held many meetings with Trade Union leaders, official figures, and Members of the House of Commons.

The delegation had the chance to meet with Mr. Michael Foot, the leader of the British Labour Party. The Palestinian delegates visited

many cities like Glasgow Edinburgh, Birmingham, London and Dundee. A series of meetings with British trade unionists took place and a political forum at Glasgow University was held at the request of the University students' union. In Dundee, which announced herself a twin city to Nablus in the West Bank, the delegation was received by Councillors and the Mayor of the city. A reception party was organized in honour of the delegation in which Palestinian flags were seen flying above Dundee City Hall. Among those attending was Mr. Ernie Ross, M.P for Dundee West, who was accompanying the delegation all the time during the Palestinian visit to Britain. The Palestinian trade unionists also participated in the Welsh Trade Union Congress, paid a visit to the House of Commons and met a number of political figures there.

This visit came within the framework of strengthening the relationship between British and Palestinian workers to face the Zionist lobby's influence within the British trade unions. In its final recommendations, the 84th congress of British

Trade Unions confirmed the need to recognise the inalienable Palestinian national rights, including the rights of self-determination and the establishment of an independent state under P.L.O. leadership.

... AND IN ITALY

In response to an invitation by three Italian trade unions which represent all sectors of workers and the three main parties, the Communist Party, the Socialist Party, and Christian Democratic Party in Italy, a three member delegation of the General Union of Palestinian Workers paid a visit to Italy. The Palestinian delegation participated in the celebration of the 1st of May in Florence. A speech was delivered by the Palestinian delegation, in front of a crowd of more than ten thousand workers.

The delegation moved to Naples where they had the chance to meet trade unionists and the Mayor of the city. A press interview was given by the delegation to the local Italian newspaper Matinea. At the end of the visit and after a series of discussions with Italian officials, a joint communique was issued between the two sides.

The communique confirmed that no just peace could be achieved in the Middle East without the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and the realisation of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Both sides strongly condemned the repeated Israeli attacks, threats and troop concentrations on the Lebanese border, and the conspiracies orchestrated by the Zionist-backed fascist Lebanese Front which aim to strike at the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement and to partition Lebanon into several sectarian mini-states.

The Italian and Palestinian trade unions called on the European states to play a positive and dynamic role with regard to the Palestine cause, without succumbing to external pressure.



FATEH COMMUNIQUE ON LEBANON CRISIS

The Central Committee of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fateh, held a meeting and issued a communique on May 17, 1981, excerpts of which follow:

"Since the signing of the capitulationist Camp David accords, the Arab region has been the scene of a vicious conflict between imperialism, Zionism and capitulationist and puppet forces on the one hand, and the forces that stand firm opposing US plots in the region, headed by the militant Palestinian-Syrian alliance, on the other. The hostile forces have used all their weapons to strike at our steadfastness and force our front to capitulate. However, our firm stand has driven the Camp David accords to their present dead end, and foiled the self-rule talks."

"The USA and Israel have actively and blatantly tried, of late, to strike at our battle front in Lebanon in order to create new circumstances which would help turn Lebanon into another Israel, through continuous Zionist military attacks on southern Lebanon, and through activating the isolationist forces with the aim of taking control of the country. Thus, the latest attempts by the Arab Deterrent Forces and Syria to confront the Israeli conspiracy in Lebanon and to realize national accord were obstructed by Israeli and Phalangist efforts to sabotage it."

"The U.S. plan aims at completing the stages of the Camp David accords by striking at the Palestinian presence and Syrian steadfastness, by paralyzing the latter's national role and by

transforming Lebanon into a new U.S.-Israeli base.

Palestinian-Syrian-National Lebanese unity in confronting the Israeli-US plot in Lebanon represents an important development in terms of the Arab-Israeli conflict. This calls for the support of all Arab states, and underlines the importance of immediately convening a conference of Arab Foreign Ministers to back and develop this brave confrontation, and consequently defeat the Camp David accords and the U.S. plot.

"We stress the importance of continuing the confrontation of the US-Israeli-isolationist plan aimed at controlling Lebanon and striking at its national forces. This requires backing all the Lebanese national forces, to enable them to repulse the US-sponsored Zionist-isolationist plot, as well as safeguarding the sovereignty, unity and Arab character of Lebanon.

"All Arab potentials must be concentrated on the Syrian-Lebanese front to wage the battle of Arab destiny.

"We call upon world public opinion to stand against the U.S. imperialist plan. This plan aims to disturb the situation in the region and endanger world peace. It insists on enslaving and oppressing the peoples of the region, and continuing support for Israel, the aggressive US base in the region. In this context, the role of the friendly Soviet Union is to be emphasized, through its support for the just confrontation of the hostility, threats and escalation which the U.S. and Israel spread in the region.

"The Fateh Central Committee salutes our people inside and outside the occupied homeland, on the anniversary of the usurpation of Palestine — an occasion marked by an intensification of struggle by our masses under occupation, who were heroic in their resistance to the occupation and its terror. The Fateh Central Committee also salutes the heroic fighters of the Joint Forces who remain steadfast in south Lebanon in defense of our Arab nation.

"From its position within the PLO, and its role in confronting the Zionist enemy and U.S. policy in the region, Fateh confirms to the Palestinian masses inside and outside Palestine and to the Arab masses that it will remain in the thick of the Arab nation's battle of destiny, until the defeat of the enemies of our people and the achievement of all our inalienable rights, headed by the right to return, to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state."

CORRECTION: In Palestine Vol. 7, No.7, of 16-30 April 1981, we published a list of the new PLO Executive Committee, from which we regret that the name of PFLP representative Ahmad Al Yamani was accidentally omitted. The full correct list of the Executive Committee is as follows:



New PLO Executive Committee

THE NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Abu Ammar (Yasser Arafat)
Fateh
(Palestine National Liberation Movement)
- Abu Lutf (Farouq Qaddoumi)
Fateh
(Palestine National Liberation Movement)
- Abu Mazen (Mahmoud Abbas)
Fateh
(Palestine National Liberation Movement)
- Ahmad Al Yamani (Abu Maher)
P.F.L.P.
(Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine)
- Abdel Rahim Ahmad
A.L.F.
(Arab Liberation Front)
- Talal Naji
P.F.L.P.
General Command
- Yasser Abed Rabbo
D.F.L.P.
(Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine)
- Muhammad Khalifeh
Saiqa
- Hamed Abu Sitta
Independent
- Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi
Independent
- Abdel Muhsin Abu Maizar
Independent

- Dr. Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajani
Independent
- Jamal al-Sourani
Independent
- Dr. Hanna Nasser
Independent
- Dr. Salah al-Dabbagh
Independent

Yasser Arafat was unanimously reelected as Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee by the members of the Congress.

MORE SOLIDARITY CABLES TO CHAIRMAN ARAFAT

On the occasion of the Week of Solidarity with the just struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of its legitimate representative, the PLO, and the 33rd anniversary of the usurpation of Palestine, Chairman Arafat received cables of support and solidarity. They included cables are from:

Kim Il Sung, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea;
The Executive Bureau of the Arab Federation of Food Industries, Damascus;
Col. Na'im al-Khatib, Commander of the PLA's first battalion in Jordan;
The Cuban Peace and Solidarity Movement with Palestine;
The Cuban People's Friendship Association;
The Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party;
The Tenth Congress of the General Union of Arab Women.

From Camp David to a new aggression
against the Arab Nation:

ISRAEL SEEKING "FINAL SOLUTIONS" IN LEBANON

From the south to the north, Lebanon, with its amiable people, its beautiful landscape and its old civilization, is burning. Shells are crashing into schools, kindergartens, coffee shops and marketplaces in the streets of Sidon and Beirut. The bombs are murdering or wounding hundreds of civilians every day. Rockets are flaring into apartments killing entire families asleep. The villages in the south are bombed daily by the artillery of the Israelis who have occupied the border strip, and the houses and crops of farmers are destroyed.

What is behind this latest aggression? It is not a Syrian-Israeli "missile crisis." Neither is it an inter-Arab, Christian-Muslim or Christian-Palestinian conflict, nor a Lebanese-Syrian one.

The latest nightmare in Lebanon is the direct outcome of the U.S.-Israeli-Sadat "peace" policy. Camp David has failed to provide any comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The central regional issues remain the urgent need for a state for the Palestinian people and a solution to the problem of continued Israeli occupation of vast Arab territories in Palestine, Syria and Lebanon. Instead, Camp David has led the United States on a deceitful course of military expansion in the entire area. And foremost, it has encouraged the appetite of the militarists in Israel to try to liquidate the Palestinian people and expand further their control over the Arab World in various forms, particularly through intensified subversion and aggression in Lebanon.

It has now become an open secret that already the start of war in Lebanon in early 1975 was directly instigated by the planners of the Second Sinai disengagement agreement between the U.S., Israel and Sadat, the prelude to Camp David. It was meant to split, destabilize and weaken the Arab world and drag the PLO and Syria into "Arabized" conflicts, which the manipulators of Camp David could exploit



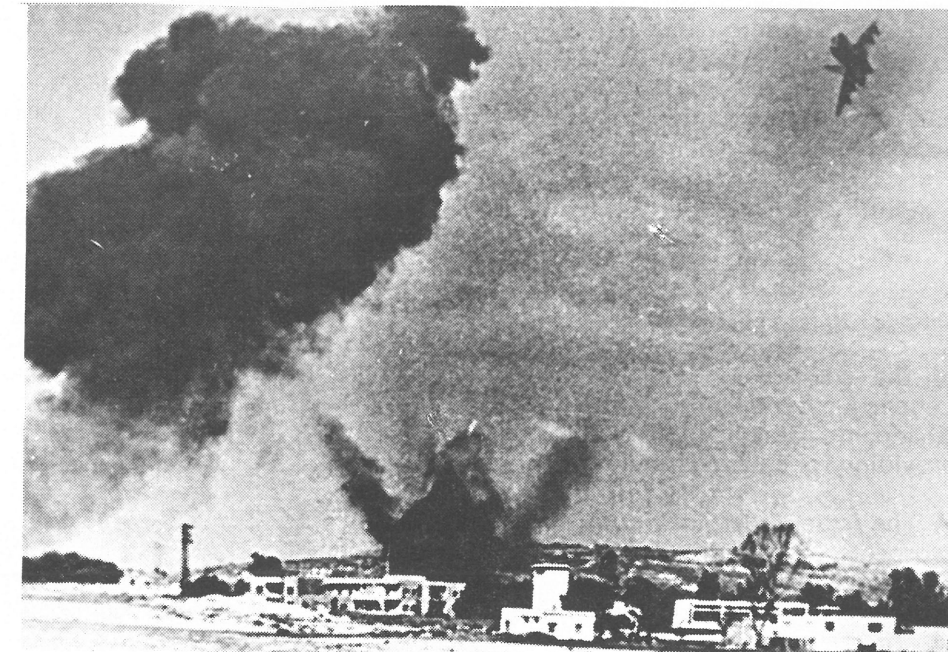
West Beirut under the terror of Phalangist shelling

at will. In 1976, Israel, acting in accordance with the U.S., started its direct military support for Lebanese fascist militias both in the south and the north. Shimon Peres, then Israeli defense minister, personally organized the subversion in Lebanon. (See *Time*, August 2 and September 13, 1976)

Reagan administration encourages Israeli hawks

Today, Israel again is responsible for the latest cynical bloodbath in the tormented country, with the U.S., too, holding a direct share. Last winter, the Israelis stepped up arming and training the right-wing militias in central Lebanon. The new U.S. administration then repeatedly renewed its unrestricted support for Israeli occupation and settlement policy. At the same time, it declared the PLO, the nationally and internationally recognized representative of four million Palestinians and their just cause, a "terrorist body."

In an ABC television interview broadcast on February 29, 1981, Reagan's National Security Adviser Richard Allen explicitly whitewashed Israel's horrible air, sea and land attacks against Lebanon as "hot pursuit of a sort" and "preemptive strikes" against the "sources of terrorism." Ever since, Israel has stepped up its air and artillery raids on the south of Lebanon. Rarely mentioned in the western media,



Israeli planes bomb south Lebanon

several hundred Palestinian and Lebanese civilians have been killed or wounded by these raids alone during the last months according to U.N. reports, before the outbreak of hostilities in central and eastern Lebanon.

Israel has also continuously stepped up its open military presence and occupation in the southern border strip which it had invaded in early 1978 and later handed over to its stooge Saad Haddad, in direct violation of Security Council resolutions 425 and 426, calling for these territories to be handed over to UNIFIL and finally to the legal Lebanese government. Instead, the Israelis recently erected military settlements there, installed heavy artillery and amassed tank units.

Meanwhile, Israel pushed the rightist militias in the north to step up their provocations against the basically Syrian Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) in Lebanon. These forces had entered Lebanon in 1976, authorized and called in by the Lebanese government and the Arab League, in order to put an end to the civil war. The Israeli-backed rightist militia, under heavy military and political pressure at that time, had welcomed the Syrian entry.

In late March 1981, Israeli Chief of Staff General Raphael Eytan was reported to have met with the chief of the Lebanese Phalangist militias, Beshir Gemayel, in central Lebanon. Soon afterwards, the right-wing forces stepped up their provocations both in Beirut and in the mountain area. In particular, they tried to open a road to the strategic town of Zahle, in the centre of the Beqaa plain. In this mainly Christian town, the Gemayel clan had had practically no presence by the end of 1976. In the last two years, however, the Phalangists infiltrated the town by armed force and terror. The obvious strategic aim of

this Israeli-rightist move was to use Zahle as a bridgehead for eventually trying to link the rightist ghetto in north-central Lebanon with the Israeli-occupied border enclave in the south. This would also cut the road between Syria and Beirut, encircling the areas controlled by the Lebanese government and the Lebanese National Movement, as well as the positions of the Palestinian Resistance. Moreover, control over the Beqaa would pose a direct threat to Syria.

It was not by coincidence that all these aggressive moves aimed at Lebanon, Syrian and the PLO came at the time U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig visited Israel on his first tour through the Middle East. The Israeli government repeatedly expressed its satisfaction about the way the new U.S. administration supported the Israeli points of view.

In April, the Syrian Arab Deterrent Forces finally reacted to the continuous provocations. They surrounded Zahle and eventually dislodged the rightwing militias from the surrounding hills, up to the strategic Sannin mountains. There, the Arab Deterrent Forces not only found lots of Israeli arms, but even a sophisticated Israeli radar surveillance station able to control central Lebanon and moreover vast parts of Syria.

Israel shoots down Syrian helicopters

At the end of April, there were signs of political relaxation in Lebanon. The Syrian and Lebanese governments started a new initiative for an overall detente between all the political and local factions in Lebanon. This move had also the obvious support of the vast majority of the Christians. There were indications that even some of the right-wing forces started to realize that they were misused as tools by Israel, and that the unending war and destabilization

ISRAEL SEEKING "FINAL SOLUTIONS" IN LEBANON

of the country was to the benefit of no one in Lebanon. Syrian Foreign Minister Abdel Halim Khaddam came to Beirut for a series of talks providing for an overall internal political solution.

The Israelis were obviously deeply worried by any prospects for stability and peace in the small neighboring country. Consequently they launched another blow in order to fan the conflict.

On April 28, 1981, Israeli U.S.-made Phantom, F-16 and F-15 planes bombed positions of the Arab Deterrent Forces near Zahle and shot down two Syrian helicopters. For the first time Begin openly declared that Israel was supporting the "Christian" militias not only in the south but also in the north with arms and training.

This military and political push was meant to undermine any internal Lebanese solution. It was to give a boost to the Israeli agents in the right-wing Lebanese ranks which immediately stepped up their provocations against the Arab Deterrent Forces and the Lebanese National Movement, in the hopes of triggering a full-scale Israeli intervention, with the final aim of setting up Zionist-fascist control over the entire country.

Of course, the shooting down of two Syrian ADF helicopters also posed a direct military provocation to Syria. Syria reacted with a quite rational move to this new escalation. It moved defensive anti-aircraft SAM missiles in to protect the positions of the ADF in the Beqaa. Naturally, these missiles posed a threat to nobody but an aggressor.

Israeli lies and warmongering

The Israeli government answered by hysterically escalating its campaign of lies, blackmail and warmongering.

"Genocide of the Christians": The Zionist propaganda has it that the "Christians" in Lebanon were threatened by genocide. The truth is that most Christians in Lebanon live outside the areas controlled by the Israeli-backed rightist militias. Many have fled these areas to come to the areas controlled by the Lebanese National Movement, even though most casualties occur in the south of the country and in the western parts of the capital Beirut, due to the barbaric arbitrary shelling of residential

centers by the Phalangists and the Haddad forces.

After all, it is Israel itself, whose bombing raids on Tyre, Sidon, Nabatiyeh, Rashidiyeh and many other towns and villages have caused the highest toll amongst the Lebanese and Palestinian population, both Muslims and Christians. "They bombarded civilians in the thousands with heavy cannons, tanks and missiles. They massacred them, like the Nazis did to the civilians in Europe. This is an exact comparison." Indeed there is some truth in this horrible comparison drawn by Begin in an interview with *Time* magazine on May 11, — however not concerning the behaviour of the Arab Deterrent Forces, as Begin wants it, but the cynical Israeli policy of devastating Lebanon over the past years.

"Israeli security against Palestinian terrorism." Another lie is that Israeli air raids on Lebanese and Palestinian centers were necessary for Israel's "security" against "Palestinian terrorism," not only in "retaliation" but also in "preemption." All current Palestinian resistance operations against the Israeli occupation are carried out from inside occupied Palestine, not from Lebanese territory. They are legal according to international law and have been explicitly sanctioned by the United Nations.

Campaigning on May 5, 1981, Begin himself admitted that "there has been not even one military incursion (from Lebanon) for more than one year." At the same time he revealed that the true aim of Israeli "security policy" was to spread terror and destabilization: "The time of retaliation operations against the Palestinians has passed. We continue to



Habib and Begin of one mind

instill fear in their camps and take the initiative..." (AFP)

Israel's "right" to the freedom of Lebanon's airspace. Begin tried to bully Syria, the Arab nation and the entire world with a series of open war threats. He repeatedly threatened to order his airforce to strike at the positions of the ADF — and "this would yield results," unless the Syrians withdrew their missiles immediately. On May 11, he revealed in the Knesset that he already had twice given orders for an attack. It was supposedly postponed only due to "bad weather" and on the "wish of the United States to give diplomacy time to act."

Begin also repeatedly called for a return "to the status quo." What this meant became clear from other statements. Israeli leaders time and again asserted shamelessly that Israel was not to give up its "right to the freedom of Lebanon's air space." This formula precisely describes the Zionist version of international law concerning Israel's relations with its Arab neighbors: the "right" to spy and to strike there with its U.S. planes at will.

The U.S. steps in with Habib and aircraft carriers

While Begin was whipping up war fever, the U.S. saw it was time to step in. The unveiled warmongering of the Begin government put the United States in a certain dilemma. Basically, the U.S. continues to

support the Israeli interference in Lebanon and the propping up of the right-wing forces. This is to weaken and, if possible, liquidate the PLO and the Palestinian cause there, because the PLO is the political stumbling bloc in the Camp David process. Also Israel and the U.S. want to pressure and threaten Syria to have it give up its opposition to Camp David and the U.S. build-up in the region. Finally they want to continue U.S.-Zionist expansion in the area.

But the United States might prefer means of subversion, attrition and pressure to an outright explosion, especially if the latter was linked to direct war between Israel and Syria. This would openly defy the still fresh Camp David "peace" claims. It also would rekindle the overall Arab-Israeli national conflict which the U.S. would like to "freeze" while concentrating on the Gulf area and the establishment of a so-called "strategic consensus" against the "Soviet threat." Moreover, it could drive Israel and the United States into a potentially dangerous confrontation with a Syria backed by the Soviet Union.

Thus, the Reagan government first sent a "special envoy," Philip Habib, on a shuttle to the Middle East. On May 13, 1981, Secretary of State Alexander Haig claimed the "hope that the situation in Lebanon could normalize rapidly." However, Habib's mission in reality seemed mainly aimed at gaining time, while letting the Israeli aggression in Lebanon continue on a smaller scale. Many observers and Syrian officials have repeatedly stressed that the U.S. is basically

ARAB AND WORLD SOLIDARITY WITH PLO AND SYRIA

The escalation of Israel's still undeclared war against Lebanon, the PLO and Syria has raised concern in the United Nations and all over the world, even in Western Europe, Japan and some circles in the United States. Many political leaders in east and west have warned against the grave consequences of this war. Both Syria and the PLO have received a flood of messages of solidarity and support.

President Fidel Castro, the Chairman of the movement of non-aligned countries, on May 6 exhorted the heads of state and governments of these countries to work for halting the Israeli aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian people. In a personal message to President Assad of Syria, President Castro said that Israel's policy poses a veritable danger to world peace. In another message of May 16, President Castro repeated his concern over the dangerous situation in the Middle East. The Zionist threats were aimed at liquidating the firm stand of Syria, the Palestinian Resistance and the Lebanese National Movement. "The Arab cause is strongly tied up with the defence of world peace. It also enjoys the support

of progressive and democratic forces all over the world," the message said.

All the often divided Arab governments have rallied in confronting the danger of another Israeli aggression directed against the interests of the entire Arab World. Iraq and Iran, although caught in a protracted war amongst each other, have both pledged support for Syria and the PLO against the Israeli aggression.

Following a call by the PLO and the Algerian government, the foreign ministers of all Arab countries convened in Tunis on May 23 and passed a series of significant resolutions. They denounced the Israeli aggression and held U.S. support responsible for it. They provided political, material and moral support for Lebanon, Syria and the PLO.

Only a seemingly embarrassed President Sadat declared that Camp David was "a firm reality" (of war?) and stated his "neutrality", that is de facto support, regarding an eventual open aggression on the part of Israel. The National Progressive Party and other patriotic organisations in Egypt, however, denounced the expansionist policy by Israel which had been encouraged through Camp David.

ISRAEL SEEKING "FINAL SOLUTIONS" IN LEBANON

trying to wrest concessions from Syria while leaving Israel a free hand for further bloodshed in Lebanon.

A U.S. administration "most favourable for Israel"

It is obvious that the United States, being the main paymaster and arms supplier of Israel and its acts of aggression, cannot be a "mediator" between the aggressor and the victim. Soviet media and political leaders have repeatedly commented that the Habib mission was just a smoke screen and cover, while in reality both Israel and the United States were ready for a war against Syria, for the dismemberment of Lebanon and for the liquidation of the Palestinian people. They suggested that the entire crisis was planned during Secretary of State Haig's recent visit to Israel. "Israel's aggressiveness is to be explained first and foremost by the fact that its actions fit into the framework of Washington's wider plans for the Middle East." (*Pravda*, May 17, 1981.)

The basic identity in U.S. and Israeli strategy was underlined by Begin himself repeatedly. Commenting on the message by President Reagan delivered to him by Philip Habib, the Israeli Prime Minister declared (May 8 and 10): "The best message ever received by Israel from an American administration"... "It addresses itself to an allied country. There has never been an administration that favourable for Israel..."

Parallel to the dispatch of its "special envoy," the Pentagon dispatched a naval task force into the Mediterranean near the Lebanese coast — the aircraft

BEGIN: "MESSIANIC TIMES OF THE DELIVERANCE"

While Begin escalated his war threats against Syria and promised to "smash the Palestinians," he also offered a revealing insight as to what kind of peace he had in mind for the occupied Arab territories. Addressing 40,000 infuriated people in the settlement of Ariel, Begin made a solemn oath: "As long as I will be prime minister we will not give up any part of Judea and Samaria [the Palestinian West Bank], the Gaza territory and the Golan Heights." The same day Begin declared on television that the "Messianic times of the deliverance are near."

carrier "Independence", missile cruiser "Yarnall" and missile destroyer "Adams". There were also *UPI* reports that the aircraft carrier "Forrestal" might also be quickly moved from Naples to the Lebanese coast. Moreover it was reported that the leader of the Lebanese right-wing militias, Beshir Gemayel, was to visit Washington by the end of May.

Saving Camp David by force

The United States is still basically interested in saving the Camp David fiasco from political collapse, if necessary by force and at the price of continued bloodshed amongst the Lebanese and Palestinian people.

In complicity with Zionist Israel, the U.S. continues to reject the idea of a comprehensive and just solution of the Middle East conflict called for not only by the Palestinian and Arab people, but by the entire world community. Instead the U.S. is prepared to give Zionism and fascism full rein in the explosive Middle East. The danger of outright fascism in and around Israel is rising everyday — a direct result of Camp David. This danger poses a threat to the entire world. The PLO, the Lebanese National Movement and all national Arab governments are resolved to resist it with all their means.

In a rare instance of partial insight, the *Washington Post* on May 18 wrote in an editorial entitled "Back to the Palestinians": "The Reagan administration has put the Palestinian problem on hold, hoping to get on with building a 'strategic consensus.' But the Lebanese conflict reminds everyone, or it should, that the Palestinian issue comes first, not just in the minds and the preferences of Arabs but in reality."

"HAARETZ": A DRUGGED POLITICAL DEMON

"One is inclined to write that Begin is obsessed by a political demon and that he is drugged from the medicaments dispensed to him..." (The Israeli daily *Haaretz*, May 15, 1981).

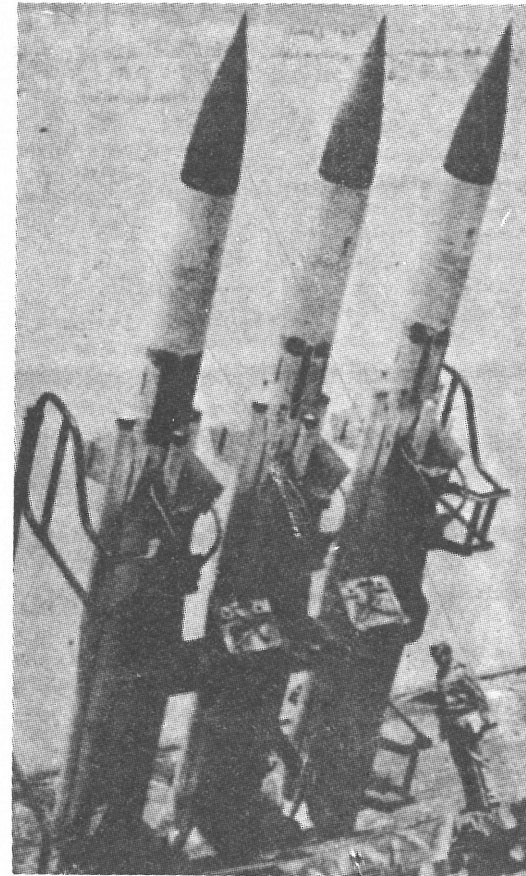
Rabin admits: Right-wing militias provoked current crisis

In an interview with the *Jerusalem Post* of May 19, 1981, former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin admitted that the right-wing militia in Lebanon had "provoked the crisis" there. He declared that they had broken the status quo ante by blocking the Beirut-Damascus road near Zahle. Rabin nevertheless supported Israeli military options, in case Syria was not ready to withdraw the air defense missiles of the Arab Deterrent Forces.

SAM MISSILES TO PREVENT ISRAELI AGGRESSION

It was no coincidence that the recent explosion in Lebanon took place following Israeli escalation in south Lebanon, and fascist Phalangist gangs' provocations against the Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) in the mountain and Beqaa areas at a time when contacts for national reconciliation in Lebanon were on the move. In this respect the ADF, which are legitimate forces in Lebanon, came to defend themselves against the Israeli-Phalangist scheme which aims to link the Israeli stooge Haddad's statelet with the Phalangist canton in the mountains through Jezzine and west Bekaa. If such a plan had succeeded, it would have cut off the routes of the Arab Deterrent Forces between Beirut and Damascus, encircled them and posed a serious threat to the national security of Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinian Revolution.

With the defeat of the Israeli-Phalangist scheme, Israel escalated its threats and carried them out against the ADF when Israel's U.S.-made jets shot down two Syrian helicopters in the Sannin heights in Mount Lebanon. It was natural for the ADF to reinforce their positions



SAMs positioned to thwart Zionist aggression

to defend themselves in accordance with all legitimate military and international conventions.

To this end the ADF deployed some SAM anti-aircraft missiles which are of a defensive nature and which would not be used except in the event of an Israeli attack. Is it true that these missiles pose a threat to Israel by being deployed in Lebanon? The fact is that Israel did not talk about a "threat" when these missiles were deployed in Syria, which, like Lebanon, has common borders with Israel, and moreover some Syrian territories are occupied by Israel.

Once again the SAM missiles are part and parcel of the military equipment of the legitimate forces in Lebanon who are receiving support from the majority of the Lebanese population, the legitimate authorities, the parliament, the Lebanese National Movement and the Palestinian Revolution.

The ADF came to Lebanon with an authorization from the Arab League as well as all peace-loving forces the world over, to end the bloodshed in Lebanon. But who invited Israel to intervene in Lebanon? Was not Israel behind the escalation under the pretext of protecting the "Christians in Lebanon" just at the same time as the Phalangist gangs were massacring the Palestinian and Lebanese population in Tal Zaatar in Eastern Beirut?

WHO IS THREATENING WHOM?

Israeli Prime Minister Begin considered the deployment of the SAM missiles as a "threat to Israel's security". The facts so far prove that it is Israel itself which, since its establishment 33 years ago, with its aggressive expansionist policy which is based on usurpation and terror, poses a threat to the Arab world as well as world peace and security. And again we ask which Israeli borders Israel wants to secure? Is it its borders with Syria which were moved into Syrian territories due to Israeli occupation, or its borders with Lebanon which are occupied under the guise of its protege Haddad? ?

Last but not least, Israel gave itself the right to interfere in the internal affairs of an Arab country-Lebanon-and to block any national entente in Lebanon.

As we go to press Israel is aggravating the situation more and more by giving itself the right to tell the ADF where and where not to deploy their troops and missiles. The so-called "Missile Crisis" is in fact the crisis of continued Israeli aggression on Lebanon. It is the crisis of the Israeli aggressive policy to bring Lebanon to its knees and impose a defeatist treaty in the Camp David style.

ZIONISM IN PRACTICE

TEACHERS IN ISRAEL ON STRIKE

All schools have been closed in Israel since Tuesday May 19. The teachers went on strike in a demand for higher pay.

The first teachers' strike began at the beginning of the school year and it ended with the setting up of a government commission, which in the course of the year has failed to fulfil the promise to increase the salary of the teaching staff. The high cost of living in Israel is one of the main causes of protests by the working people.

ISRAELI SENTENCES IN RAMALLAH

The Zionist military tribunal in Ramallah recently sentenced three Palestinian inhabitants from the village of Mazraa al-Sharqiyeh in the Ramallah region, on charges of affiliation with Fateh and resistance against the Israeli occupation. Murad Abdul Qader, 21, was sentenced to six years imprisonment, two of them suspended; Amin Muhammad Moubarak, 19, to two and a half years, two of them suspended; and Farid Amin Hmeidi, 20, to five years, two of them suspended.

The same court sentenced three other young Palestinians on charges of making contacts with embassies and consulates supporting the Palestinian Revolution, and resisting Israeli occupation. The three are Mohammad 'Askar al-Abed (9 months), Hussein Mahmoud Younis (6 months), and Kamal Mahmoud Hijaz (4 months).

The Ramallah military court also

sentenced the Palestinian Maher Abu Rmeileh to two years in prison on charges of affiliation to Fateh. In the Gaza Strip, the Zionist authorities arrested more than 14 Palestinian inhabitants of the Jabalyah camp on charges of affiliation to the Palestinian Revolution.

2 NEW ZIONIST COLONIES IN GOLAN AND SINAI

On May 18, Zionist colonizers began work on a new colony in the central sector of the occupied Golan Heights. The settlement, the 27th to be built in the Golan, will be called 'Kilah'. The occupation authorities are also planning to establish more settlements on large tracts of land which had been seized from their legitimate owners over the past few years, for alleged 'security' reasons.

In the Sinai desert, Zionist settlers on May 17 began work on a new settlement which they named 'Yashidot Hadorim'. This settlement will be the first in a series of six to be built in the same region and which the Israeli Army will have the right to supervise, according to the Israeli daily, *Maariv*.

ZIONIST AUTHORITIES BLOW UP 1259 PALESTINIAN HOMES

The Israeli newspaper "*Haaretz*" of May 18, 1981 admitted that the Zionist occupation forces have blown up 1259 Palestinian-owned homes in the occupied territories since 1967. The last incident took place in Jabalyah Camp in the Gaza Strip on May 17, 1981, when Zionist authorities blew up five homes. The newspaper also admitted that over 300 homes were blown up in 1969 only and 231 in 1971. The Zionist authorities said that these missions were carried out due to "security" reasons. (*Reuter*, *AFP* May 18, 1981)

ISRAELI SOLDIER SENTENCED TO 38 DAYS FOR MURDER OF PALESTINIAN WOMAN

Several national, progressive and democratic forces in Palestine on May 11 denounced the Israeli Military Court's decision to sentence an

Israeli soldier to 38 days for killing the Palestinian citizen Ghanima Abu Laqima from the Naqab region.

In its denunciation, the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality stated that the death of Ghanima Abu Laqima is one of several similar cases, and that such sentences only serve to encourage Israeli soldiers to regard Palestinian lives lightly.

The victim was shot on February 26, while carrying her infant baby in a car on her way home. The accused soldier was released immediately after sentencing on grounds that he had served the sentence period in prison while awaiting "trial".

DEATH OF PALESTINIAN IN ISRAELI POLICE STATION

On May 11, Israeli Knesset member Tawfiq Toubi demanded that the Israeli Interior Minister open an investigation into the death in a police station of the Palestinian citizen, Ibrahim Ragheb Masarwa.

The Israeli police in Baqa al-Gharbiyah arrested Ibrahim Masarwa at 5:00 P.M., on Wednesday April 29, for investigation. At 11:00 P.M., the police informed the family that their son was dead. Employees at a nearby hospital later disclosed that the Israeli police brought Ibrahim's corpse there at 8:00 P.M. Relatives of the deceased said that they had noticed suspicious marks on the body.

GOLDMAN: ISRAELI POLICY IS A THREAT TO PEACE

Nahum Goldman, the former president of the World Zionist Organisation, admitted in an interview conducted by the West German weekly "*Vorwärts*" on May 11 that there will be no peace in the Middle East if Palestinians do not have their right of self-determination, and that Israeli policy is a threat to peace in the Middle East. He stressed that "Nobody has the right to dictate to the Palestinians."

ISRAEL OWES \$21.875 BILLION

Israel is facing serious economic problems, and the inflation rate has jumped dramatically up to 133 percent. News agencies on May 15 reported statistics showing that the already low living standard in Israel is facing some serious threats as the food prices increased by up to 10.6 percent in a period of one month. This will be the fourth biggest increase since the occupation of Palestine in 1948, reports added.

AP reported that by the end of last March, Israel owed \$21,875 billion to foreign countries, mainly to the U.S. These figures caused



KAHANE PREVENTED FROM ENTERING NAZARETH

The people and the municipality of Nazareth for the second time

panic in the trade unions and labour circles. The current budget deficit is \$539 million, excluding the spending on military activities.

ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN COORDINATION TO CONFRONT PLO ACTIVITIES

On May 19, Radio Israel reported covert coordination as regards the exchange of information between the Egyptian and Israeli intelligence services regarding the PLO. This agreement will facilitate the policy proclaimed by the Knesset of liquidating members, cadres and leaders of the PLO inside and outside occupied Palestine.

In its Hebrew broadcast, Radio

prevented the extremist Zionist Rabbi Meir Kahane from entering the city. Kahane's first attempt took place on March 21 when he was forced to turn back by the people of Nazareth.

When he was thrown out on May 7, Kahane sent a provocative letter to the Mayor of Nazareth threatening to return to the city on "independence day" to raise the Israeli flag over the municipality and read the Zionist "declaration of independence."

The Deputy Mayor of Nazareth

Israel said that the Israeli-Egyptian Military Committee will discuss, at its next meeting, the activities of the PLO in Egypt, in the light of its claim that Palestinian commandos have recently infiltrated into Palestine across the Egyptian frontier. The broadcast added that the common border with Egypt has become a main route for smuggling arms destined for Palestinian commandos in the occupied territories. It went on to say that leading commandos have entered the Gaza Strip to escalate resistance against the occupation, and that Israel and Egypt are trying jointly to confront the commandos entering via Egypt, and to limit their activities.

Adib Abu Rahmoun immediately contacted the Israeli police and held them responsible for any incidents that may occur if Kahane executes his threat.

The Nazareth Municipality also issued a memorandum recalling Kahane's threat to force the Palestinian Arabs out of their land. The memorandum added that the people and municipality of Nazareth oppose any visit by Kahane, and called on the masses to show maximum alertness with regard to any provocations by the colonial racist gangs.

Meir Kahane:

"I WANT TO REMOVE THE ARABS"

The fanatical 'Gush Emunim' Zionist settler movement held a conference in Israel in August last year. Gush Emunim's journal *Hamakor* published extracts from speeches, including the following, from one of its leaders, Alon Haramish:

"...We should be making sure that it is the Jewish people who strike roots and thrive in the area... We must try and make things harder for the Arabs. It is not necessary to throw bombs into the Casbah or to expel the Arabs. There is nothing wrong, however, with making their life difficult in the hope that they will emigrate. Perhaps only those will remain who genuinely want to be loyal citizens of Israel... if they really do, let them convert (to Judaism)..."

Sympathetic to Gush Emunim, but even further to the right, is Meir Kahane's 'Kach' movement (formerly

the 'Jewish Defence League'). Kahane wrote in the *Jerusalem Post* (Aug. 3, 1980):

"...Let me state unequivocally: we of the Kach movement are committed to a Knesset (parliamentary) law to remove the Arabs. Those who wish to leave willingly will be compensated for their property, those who refuse will be removed without compensation...In a state that is on the one hand "Jewish" and on the other is pledged to democracy and equality, what happens if the Arabs become a majority? Have they that right?... Or will we take away that right from them? I want to remove the Arabs of Israel, because I do not want to kill them every week as they grow and riot... Because I want to see a Jewish state survive, it is more important to me than equality between Jew and Arab. Someone had better rethink the Declaration (of Israeli independence)."

(MIDDLE EAST — NORTH AFRICA NEWS
NO. 20, March 1981.)

SOUTH LEBANON:

NABATIYEH: A TARGET OF ZIONIST AGGRESSION

May 23 is a typical day in the southern Lebanese market town of Nabatiyeh. A typical day in Nabatiyeh is one where there is not an unusually large Israeli attack against the town and the surrounding villages. At 8:00 in the morning Israeli jets begin flying over the area causing occasional sonic booms. The overflights continue for the rest of the day. During the night, there had been the usual shelling from the Israeli-rightist controlled border strip. Forty rockets crashed down on the nearby Shaqif (Beaufort) Castle, the village of Arnoun and on the edges of Nabatiyeh itself. So far this was also a lucky day — there were no casualties.

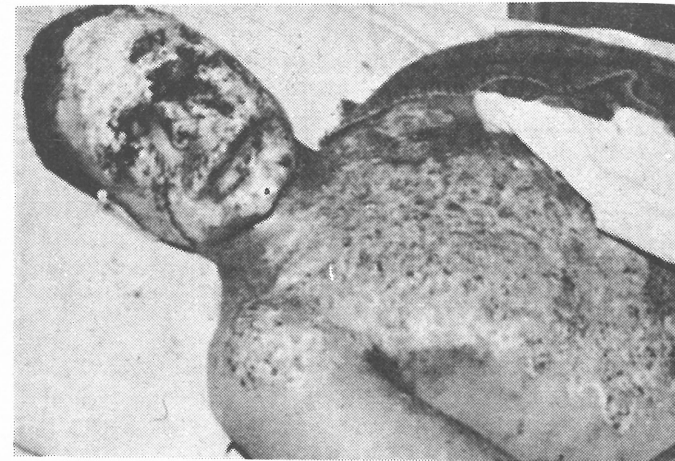
But the calm of the city on the 23rd is a deadly one. The physical characteristics of the town reveal a terrorized existence for the remaining inhabitants. Not a single building in the city is free of pock-marks from bomb fragments or gaping holes or caved in roofs from direct hits by the never-ending Zionist shelling attacks.



Nabatiyeh: target of increased Israeli attacks

Now Nabatiyeh's civilian population live with an increased sense of psychological tension. During the preceding two weeks there has been a heightened build-up of Zionist troops inside the occupied border strip only kilometers away from the centre of the city. The military intelligence for the Lebanese-Palestinian Joint Forces in the south has reported that Israeli soldiers from Sinai and the Jordan Valley in occupied Palestine have been moved into the Lebanese border strip. New artillery positions have been set up in the past two weeks. More tanks have been spotted moving into the zone. Daily military maneuvers have been reported. Today — May 23 — a Lebanese correspondent in the eastern sector of southern Lebanon reports in *L'Orient-Le Jour*, "dozens of Israeli tanks accompanied by bulldozers are moving in the direction of Lebanese territory.... Enemy flights assure air cover for these advancing tanks."

Since the beginning of April, Nabatiyeh has been a



Beirut man disfigured by phosphorous bomb used by Phalangists.

particular target of increased Israeli attacks in the current escalated threats against Syria and the Palestinian Resistance. May 17 witnessed one of the most murderous shelling attacks on Nabatiyeh yet. At 4:00 in the afternoon a rain of shells fell on all parts of the city. Four shells fell directly in the central marketplace. Seven townspeople were killed in the first barrage and seven were wounded. What was particularly barbaric about this day was the use of phosphorous bombs — a deadly anti-personnel weapon which dispels a jelly-like substance burning anything it touches for about 24 hours after the explosion.

Five days later the horror of the phosphorous bombs was still deeply imprinted in the townspeople's minds. On a visit to the Najda Shaabiyeh (Peoples Aid) Clinic run by the Lebanese National Movement, doctors and nurses remembered Fayez Mokaddem and his two sons who were killed when a phosphorous bomb hit near a car they were riding in. A nurse at the clinic tells about these bombs: "The phosphorous bombs first of all burn people. If the bomb doesn't burn them, any fragment of it poisons the person. If it touches any part of the body, it poisons it."

Visiting the clinic is a Palestinian fighter whose friends tried to come to the aid of Fayez Mokaddem and his two wounded sons. He speaks with revulsion at the barbarity of it: "His whole body was blackened and still burning. His face was so disfigured, you couldn't tell who it was. There was a horrid stench from the smoldering phosphorous. My friend tried to lift the body of one of the children out of the car. When he touched the body, burning phosphorous stuck to his fingers and wouldn't stop burning. They had to cut off two of his fingers."

A nurse in the Najda Shaabiyeh Clinic sits aside on this unusually calm day and speaks in a strong voice to relate the general conditions for the people of Nabatiyeh.

"I've worked here in Najda Shaabiyeh for five years. I still live here in Nabatiyeh where we are constantly shelled and bombed by Saad Haddad and

Israel. At least two or three times a day, we receive so many wounded people here. Most of them come to this dispensary because there's a doctor here 24 hours a day."

"Once when I was working here, Nabatiyeh was bombed and we received 12 wounded people. Most of them were children. One of them had his hand cut off. Another had both legs cut off. Another lost his eyes. One of them was without a stomach. I will never forget this case. For sure when you receive such cases, you can't do anything for them except first aid because we don't have an operation room."



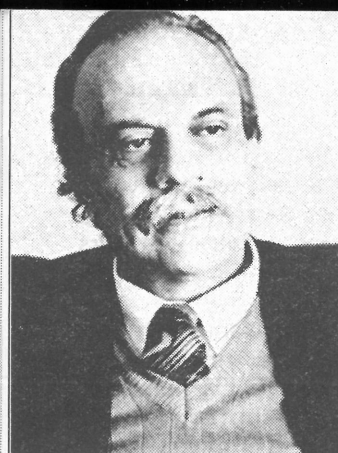
Medical workers at Najda Shaabiyeh ready to aid the victims

Every day when they're not bombing, we receive many cases of people who are suffering from shock from the bombs. We also receive people who don't have physical wounds but who are hysterical. They lose their minds."

"Still, we live in Nabatiyeh these last three or four months with bombs, with shelling — and we have decided not to leave. I speak not for myself — but I mean so many people, so many people around me, the people here in Najda, near my house — everywhere in Nabatiyeh. No one thinks of leaving Nabatiyeh, even though we are bombed every day, even though so many people are wounded from the bombing. No one thinks of leaving Nabatiyeh because if one person thinks of leaving, then his neighbor will think of leaving. Every person tries to persuade his neighbor or his friend to stay. It's our village. We've built our houses here. We work here. In Najda Shaabiyeh, we work for poor people. We work for every person — the young and old and the stranger as well as for the people from our village.

"I hope that Nabatiyeh will return to the way it was in the past, so that all the people who have left Nabatiyeh can return to their homes and live in peace."

Indeed, is not this the hope of any people — to live in peace and dignity without the threat of deadly aggression?



Inaam Raad To "Palestine"

"THE FIGHT IS BEING WAGED AGAINST AN EXTENSION OF ISRAEL"

In the context of its interviews with Lebanese political leaders, *Palestine* recently conducted the following interview with Mr. Inaam Raad, President of the Syrian Nationalist Social Party:

Palestine: Could you review the level of the existing political and military co-ordination within the Lebanese National Movement on the one hand, and between it and the Palestinian Resistance on the other?

I. Raad: I believe the experience of the past six years has confirmed that the level of co-ordination has reached a point that can be described as strategic alliance or, more profoundly, as a single nationalist trench. We consider that the struggle of the Lebanese National Movement and the Palestinian Revolution is in a single nationalist trench, and not merely as allies, because the question of confronting the Israeli enemy is a national one, not just a Palestinian or Lebanese one. They are both interrelated, as the Zionist danger which began in Palestine is aimed, in the origins of its plan, against Lebanon and all the national and natural surroundings of Palestine. Hence the battle is one. Therefore there were Lebanese-Palestinian Joint Forces throughout the two years' war, and in south Lebanon there are still Joint Forces. These Joint Forces are a proof of the unity of leadership and will in the conflict with the Zionist enemy. Of course, one can say that the level of unity of the Lebanese patriotic forces militarily needs new organisational frameworks, and this has been under discussion in the Central Political Council since the announcement of the Political and Organisational Charter. We have not yet achieved the formula, but we are serious about achieving it. With regard to the Resistance, as I said, during the two years' war, we fought together in joint forces, and in south Lebanon now there is the formula of the Joint Forces.

Palestine: How do you evaluate Syria's role in confronting the military escalation in Lebanon, particularly at the present stage?

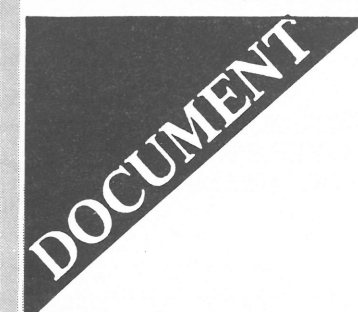


I. Raad: We believe that the blow delivered against the Phalangist militia in the Zahle hills and which is now being delivered in the Sannin heights is a strategic and important one. The proof of this is the intervention of the Israeli Air Force itself, in that the battle was originally with the fascist isolationists, specifically the Phalangist Party supported directly by Israel through the supply of heavy weapons, military training, the despatch of Israeli experts and the Israeli presence in the border strip, camouflaged as Saad Haddad's militia. This relationship between Israel and the fascists is confirmed by Israeli sources themselves and by Phalangist sources who say they were compelled to do this, trying to justify their collaboration with Israel and acting on its behalf. Now, however, there has been direct intervention by the Israeli Air Force, which bombs the Sannin heights and Zahle hills just as it bombs the southern villages. This means that Israel has taken a qualitative step in supporting the zionised Phalangist Party. This came after the military reversals at this front, and the political reversals, namely after the Phalangist Party found that it had not benefited directly from Israeli cover in its war, and also that it did not benefit from American or French cover to internationalise the Lebanese crisis. I would like to add another point here, namely the entry of the patriotic forces in the battle in the mountains, particularly at Ayun Al Siman where there are Joint Forces from all the parties in the Lebanese National Movement, and in North Metn where our Party assumes the main role. These Lebanese patriotic forces deprived Zionist propaganda of the blackmail card that the Lebanese were fighting the Syrians, as they used to say in the past that the Lebanese were fighting the Palestinians. It was plainly apparent to all the news agencies which went up to the mountains that Lebanese forces with popular roots were fighting zionised fascist Lebanese forces and consequently the battle of the mountains appeared in its true light. Hence, when Zionist propaganda failed, the Zionist air force intervened, and this is the true equation and the end of the complication. The Syrian and patriotic Lebanese forces' confron-

tation is a decisive one against the Israeli enemy, since, in the light of all these facts, the fight is not being waged against a Lebanese faction but an extension of Israel. In this connection, I recall a theory put forward by brother Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, General Commander of the Palestinian Revolution and of the Joint Forces. This is the accordion theory, meaning that there is co-ordination between the fascists and the Israelis. The Zionised canton in south Lebanon and the Zionised canton in Beirut and the mountains each wants to expand until it joins up with the other one in the Beqaa along the Litani. This nearly happened when the Phalangist militia expanded to Zahle and its hills and a wide area of the Beqaa almost fell. This would have meant, in the event of an Israeli attack towards the Litani, that the two cantons would have joined up. Thus the first canton is now in retreat. Here we take into account the possibility of the other canton expanding in south Lebanon, and so the danger of Israeli invasion there increases. Thus we are in confrontation with the cantons. Syria and the patriotic forces in the mountains and the patriotic forces and the Palestinian Resistance in south Lebanon in fact constitute the nationalist confrontation against the cantons.

Palestine: It is well known that the Syrian forces in Lebanon in the Arab Deterrent Forces framework are legal forces in accordance with known agreements. Am I to understand from your second answer that they are allied to the Lebanese National Movement in confronting another Lebanese party that is trying to explode the situation?

I. Raad: They are forces which entered on the basis of ending the fighting, and preserving and protecting Lebanon's unity and Arab character, and protecting the Palestinian Resistance. In other words, when there is a Lebanese party and the conflict between it and the National Movement is about a political programme, we say that the Arab Deterrent Forces would be partial to one Lebanese faction against another and what you say would be true. But after the explanation I gave in reply to the first question, and as the Palestinian Revolution knows well, the conflict is against Israel and its puppets. The Arab Deterrent Forces cannot be with Israel and its puppets, particularly since the national reconciliation document announced by President Sarkis speaks of striking against partitionist sectarian versions of Lebanon's unity, and of the sole basic enemy being the Zionist enemy. These militias oppose the unity of Lebanon on the one hand, that is, they oppose the principles of national reconciliation, and on the other hand they oppose the Lebanese state's defence policy which regards the Zionist enemy as the basic enemy. Just as the UN emergency forces would be remiss in their duty if they did not implement the Security Council resolution requiring the ending of Israeli occupation in the border strip, the Arab Deterrent Forces would also not be fulfilling their mission were they to take a soft line on direct and indirect Israeli intervention in Mount Lebanon and the Bekaa.



COMMUNIQUE OF TUNIS CONFERENCE ON ISRAELI AGGRESSION

The Arab Foreign Ministers convened in Tunis for an emergency session over the Lebanon crisis. They issued the following final communique on May 23, 1981:

"The Arab League Council held a meeting at Foreign Ministers' level in the Arab League Headquarters in Tunis on 22 May 1981. The Council, in full consciousness of its responsibilities, discussed the explosive situation in the region in the wake of the escalating Israeli aggression against the Arab nation, Israel's interference in the internal affairs of Lebanon, its shelling of Lebanese villages and Palestinian camps in South Lebanon, the war of annihilation against the Palestinian people, the attacks on the Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF), the threats against Syria, and the announcement of the Israeli 'security thesis'; these measures being aimed at dominating Lebanon and breaking up its national unity, and ultimately at prevailing over the whole Arab nation.

The Council concluded by declaring the following points:

1. The Israeli 'security thesis', in accordance with which Israel has arrogated to itself the right to attack the sovereignty of Lebanon and strike at Palestinian refugee camps and the Arab Deterrent Forces, is a clear manifestation of Israel's aggressive nature and its expansionist aims as regards Lebanon and the entire Arab nation. It constitutes a dangerous precedent in the international situation and poses a threat to world peace and security.

COMMUNIQUE OF TUNIS CONFERENCE ON ISRAELI AGGRESSION

2. The brutal bombardments of Lebanese villages and Palestinian refugee camps is aimed at creating a defeatist mood in the Arab nation and liquidating the Palestinian Revolution as the preliminary step towards liquidating the Palestinian cause.

3. The attacks on the ADF under the cover of protecting one Lebanese party clearly illustrate Israel's plans, and are aimed at eroding the national unity of Lebanon and partitioning that country into several sectarian mini-states, thus hindering the moves being made towards realising national accord.

4. The attacks on the ADF, the provocations of Syria and the issuing of threats are aimed at exploding the military situation with Syria and the Arab nation as a whole, and constitute an attempt to impose domination on the Arab region.

5. Israel's continued pursuit of these policies makes a military explosion all but inevitable, since to retreat before these policies would signify defeat and capitulation, and as such is rejected by the Arab nation.

6. The unconditional military, political and material support Israel receives from the United States encourages it to persist in its aggressive policies against the Arab nation.

"In the light of the above, the Council adopted the following decisions:

I. To resist Israel's 'security thesis' through all means, and to support Syria in its confrontation of the practical implementation of this thesis; the Council affirms its backing for Syria in facing up to Israeli aggression and provocation.

II. In the light of the facts of the current situation and what has emerged from Israel's actions and preparations, the Arab states will provide Syria with all the support necessary to confront this aggression and will make available all their potentials in the battle, including the participation of military forces, in accordance with the Arab League Charter and the Joint Arab Defence Pact.

III. The Council resolves to support the unity, independence and sovereignty of Lebanon

and to support the legitimate central government. It confirms the readiness of the Arab governments to offer all kinds of backing to the Lebanese government in confronting Israeli aggression against its territorial sovereignty and to stand up to Israeli interference in Lebanon's internal affairs.

IV. The Council calls for an immediate ceasefire in Lebanon and calls on all parties to work for the achievement of national accord.

V. The Council confirms the need to implement the Riyadh and Cairo summit resolutions and to activate the follow-up committees formed in accordance with those resolutions on the basis of convening a meeting at Foreign Ministers' level if that should be deemed necessary.

VI. The Council resolves to support the PLO through all means so that it may assume its responsibilities and face up to the war of annihilation being waged by Israel against it and against the Palestinian people as a whole.

VII. The Council supports the PLO's call for opening the way before all Arabs wishing to participate in the struggle to liberate the Palestinian territories.

VIII. The Council affirms the need immediately to implement the Tunis summit resolutions as regards offering financial assistance to the Palestinian and Lebanese citizens in South Lebanon.

IX. The Council calls on the United States to cease all its aid to Israel, since this support constitutes an aggression against the Arab nation and consequently becomes a source of confrontation between the Arab nation and the U.S.

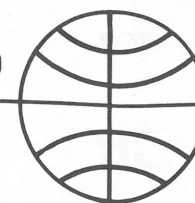
X. The Council calls on world public opinion to condemn the entire approach embodied in the Camp David accords and the Israeli-Egyptian treaty.

XI. The Council salutes the struggle of the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories and their support for the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

XII. The Council affirms the utmost importance of Arab solidarity and of overcoming all marginal differences in the face of the Zionist invasion of Arab territories.

XIII. The Secretary-General of the Arab League has been instructed to follow up these developments and to brief the Arab governments regarding the appropriate measures to be taken.

WORLD EVENTS



U.S. OPENLY EMBRACES

APARTHEID REGIME IN SOUTH AFRICA

In an unprecedented move against all international diplomatic conventions, the United States government officially hosted a visit to Washington by the South African Foreign Minister, Roelof Botha. Botha's visit was preceded by a visit of high-ranking South African military intelligence officials. Washington began its new open collaboration with the apartheid regime last month when it led its Western allies on the UN Security Council in vetoing African countries' demands for mandatory sanctions against South Africa over its intransigence in negotiations over granting Namibia independence.

After Botha's visit, the Namibian people's liberation organization, SWAPO, issued a statement on May 19 declaring that "it should be obvious to Pretoria that Britain, France and the U.S. can veto a Security Council resolution, but they cannot veto the people's will to fight, sacrifice and win." SWAPO reported that in April, 180 soldiers of the occupying army were killed, some 200 wounded and 5 were taken prisoner. Fifteen military vehicles were destroyed and two South African army helicopters shot down.

In South Africa itself, the African National Congress called for mass strikes in the country from May 25 to 27. The mass strikes are to protest against official ceremonies marking the proclamation of the racist republic. Some 500 students in Durban have already been expelled from school because of plans they had made to boycott the official ceremonies. On May 21, ANC General Secretary Alfred Nzo published a statement saying that "in 20 years since the proclamation of the 'republic' nothing had changed in the fact that the black population of South Africa is deprived of its most elementary rights."

BRITISH SOLDIER KILLED IN NORTHERN IRELAND; HUNGER STRIKES CONTINUE

On May 25, a British soldier was killed and three others wounded in an ambush near the northern Irish village of Bellaghy. This village is a few kilometers from the family home of Francis Hughes, who is one of four Republican

political prisoners who have died recently in hunger strikes. The last political prisoner to die in the Maze Prison after a hunger strike was Patsy O'Hara. His burial in Londonderry on May 25 was followed by violent clashes between Republican supporters and British occupation troops. The government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher continues to remain intransigent in its unwillingness even to discuss the demands for political status by Maze prisoners. The hunger strikes are continuing and the British intransigence promises to keep struggle in Northern Ireland in a state of pitched battle.

STEPPED-UP FIGHTING IN EL SALVADOR: LIBERATION FORCES GAIN

On May 18, the Mexican press published a statement by the supreme command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front concerning military losses of the Salvadoran junta for the month of April. According to the front, 414 junta soldiers and members of right-wing death squads were either killed or taken prisoner by Salvadoran liberation forces. There was fierce fighting in April in Morazan Province and other areas between the liberation forces and junta troops. The Front temporarily occupied many towns and villages and army garrisons and junta institutions were attacked. The Salvadoran junta and its death squads continued its policy of mass slaughter of the civilian population. Almost 1,000 civilians were murdered by junta troops and armed gangs in April. In defense of the Salvadoran population from the junta terror, the Front launched 218 military operations in April.

U.S. THREATENS NICARAGUA AND MEXICO

The Cuban news agency *Prensa Latina* reported from Managua on May 13 that after a two-day visit to Mexico, Commander of the Nicaraguan revolution Daniel Ortega stated that Nicaragua and Mexico are under attack by the United States. Ortega said that Nicaragua was under attack by Washington not only economically, but also that in Florida, counter-revolutionaries were being trained for invading the country. With regard to Mexico, he said the U.S. government failed to ratify a territorial agreement because it was found that Mexico's maritime economic zone contains oil. Ortega said that support for Nicaragua reiterated by the Mexican government will help the United States to realize that the Nicaraguan revolution is irreversible and enjoys international prestige.

"NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION AGGRESSIVE THAN ANY PREVIOUS ONE"

Chafik Jorge Handal, Secretary-General of the Salvadoran Communist Party and member of the General Command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, visited the Palestinian Revolution in March, 1981. Mr. Handal came at the invitation of the Executive Committee of the DFLP and held meetings with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, DFLP leader Naif Hawatmeh, Fateh Central Committee member Abu Jihad and leaders of the Lebanese National Movement.



Palestine conducted the following interview with the Salvadoran revolutionary leader near the end of his visit.

Q: What are the circumstances in El Salvador which led to the formation of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front?

A: There are many reasons, mostly social, as in any other Latin American country. Ninety percent of the population in El Salvador are either farmers or workers and both share the same social problems. The peasants only work for three months during the year and during the rest of the year they try to get jobs in the cities to better their living conditions. Their standards of living are well below the world's average.

The lack of employment and social privileges (in the event that they find employment), has forced many Salvadorans to emigrate to other countries. For instance, there are hundreds of thousands of Salvadorans in Honduras. There are a huge number living in the U.S. where they find illegal employment for wages considered next to nothing. They constantly face the threat of deportation by American employers in the event that they demand better working conditions.

The Salvadoran bourgeoisie, mostly coffee producers, forced the reactionary government a number of times to block attempts by workers to form labor unions. During the world economic crisis in January 1932, the people revolted, especially the peasants. The crisis hit El Salvador particularly hard. The government cracked down on the people and massacred 30,000 of them. After that, a military junta was installed. Military rule continues until the present.

The military government attempted some democratic changes in 1961 to calm the masses. They permitted people to join unions and allowed minorities to participate in constitutional committees. This was the green light for the Communist Party to surface openly. In 1960, the Christian Democratic Party was also established. There were several attempts to form other parties, but they all failed. Those democratic gains made people optimistic and they hoped for the establishment of a completely democratic system through free elections. For eleven years until 1971, the Communist Party alongside other parties engaged in a stiff struggle to enact other democratic measures.

In 1977, the opposition parties were successful in electing Ernesto Claramon as president. He was a progressive military figure. The military junta went wild and removed their democratic mask by massacring several thousand people on February 28, 1977. Several liberation organizations were established and they began carrying out military operations. Since that time we have noticed Israeli involvement and the fact that the conspiracy against the Salvadoran people has been internationally planned.

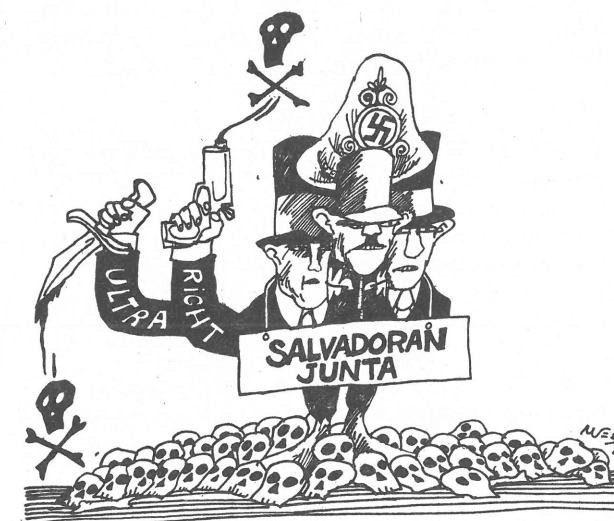
Q: What role does Israel play in the events in El Salvador?

A: In the early 1970s, Salvadoran democratic organizations called for armed struggle to put an end to the misery and the dictatorship under which the Salvadoran people live. A limited struggle began at that time and from that time we have noticed the involvement of Israeli advisors, both military and intelligence experts. We are certain that the increase in the number of atrocities committed by the ruling junta has been planned by those advisors. I would say without any hesitation that Israel has been playing a direct role in every decision or criminal act committed against the Salvadoran people. Their fingerprints are everywhere. Add to that the military hardware which Israel supplies the chauvinist junta. It has been confirmed that the Zionist entity is doing U.S. imperialism's dirty work in many Latin American countries upon request.

When President Carter talked about "human rights," he didn't forget his obligation towards the fascist rulers of many Latin American countries. These "humanitarian" obligations led to a grain embargo against Nicaragua. This also led to the go-ahead for the Israelis to increase the rate of their interference in Salvadoran internal affairs.

Q: What is the policy of the new U.S. administration towards El Salvador and the rest of Latin America?

A: The new American administration is more aggressive than any previous one as it represents the most aggressive of North American groups. Reagan and his aides have embarked upon an arms race and a show of power directed against the Socialist Camp and the peoples of the Third World. They think that Carter's "human rights" policy was weak. They say that it has encouraged revolutionary changes in Third World countries. The Reagan Administration also holds



Fascist massacres in the capital of El Salvador

the Carter Administration responsible for the "loss" of Nicaragua, Iran and Angola. This gives you an idea about the attitude of the new U.S. administration.

Q: How has U.S. intervention affected the situation in El Salvador?

A: The revolutionary movement in El Salvador could have brought this war to an end if it were not for the American aid which the junta has received. It would have been a short war. The leading member of the junta, Duarte, has admitted as much in many statements issued to the press. Trying to justify U.S. involvement, Duarte stated: "If it was not for the Americans, the junta couldn't have stayed in power until now." And he added that the American presence in El Salvador has become necessary to confront Communism.

Q: How do you evaluate the situation in the Middle East?

A: The situation in the Middle East is very serious and the problems have become seriously complicated. The imperialist threats to control the oil have made it even more complicated. Every industrial state in the West is looking for a foothold in the area. Israel's very existence in the Middle East has turned the area into a time bomb. The American imperialists are aggravating the tension in the region. Israel is remotely controlled by the U.S. The Arab progressive movement is not only confronting the Zionist regime, its main enemy is American imperialism and other Arab reactionary regimes which are affiliated to it.

The Palestinian Revolution, in my opinion, is the spearhead of the national liberation movements in the region. It is facing very serious threats and attacks launched by Zionism and international imperialism. Now, with my visit over, I can say that I am very optimistic about the steadfastness of the Palestinian fighters on all fronts. The Palestinians will emerge victorious.

WAR AND PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

BREZHNEV WARNS AGAINST DANGER OF MIDDLE EAST WAR

On May 22, Soviet President Brezhnev warned against the danger of war in Lebanon and the entire Middle East and called for an international conference to stabilise the situation there. In a speech in Tiflis, the capital of the Soviet Republic of Georgia, he warned that "one rash step" would be enough to engulf the entire Middle East in a military conflagration and added: "It is hard to tell how far the sparks of this fire will fly."

The Soviet President underlined direct Soviet concern over developments in the Middle East, which he described as a region "really near for Georgia, as well as for all of our country" and said what was happening there was cruel, tragic and dangerous.

"Indeed, can one close one's eyes to the position and suffering of millions of Palestinians? Can one be left indifferent to the fate of Lebanon which is literally being bled white by the attacks of the Israeli military". President Brezhnev asked.

He repeated that the proposed international conference would "offer a good chance for working collectively in order to stabilise the situation in the Middle East." Brezhnev also repeated his earlier proposals for a conference on the security and neutralization of the Gulf area, and Soviet readiness to discuss likewise a political settlement of the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

AMERICANS PAY \$20.6 BILLION FOR CAMP DAVID

Washington's Middle East policy costs American tax payers huge sums of money. The U.S. administration spares no funds to support Israel and Egypt in a bid to salvage at any cost the bankrupt Camp David deal. *The Washington Post* reported recently that starting from 1975 the United States has given Tel Aviv and Cairo the fantastic sum of \$20.6 billion in military and economic "aid". From the time the Camp David deal was concluded in 1978, American taxpayers have been "subsidising" Israel and Egypt, supplying to them about \$5.5 billion annually. That is three billion dollars more a year than the Carter administration initially allocated. According to the *Washington Post*, the implementation of the Camp David agreements will

cost the United States an additional \$19 billion over five years.

The newspaper stresses that official Washington intentionally misleads the taxpayers concerning the cost of its Middle East policy.



SADAT EXCHANGES ISRAELI SINAI OCCUPATION FOR U.S. OCCUPATION

Following a series of talks between the U.S., Israel and Egypt, deputy U.S. assistant secretary of state Michael Sterner carried a draft agreement to Cairo in late May concerning the setting up of a so-called "multi-national" force to police Sinai after an Israeli withdrawal in early 1982. Despite all his earlier ardent assertions to the contrary, it now seems that Sadat has basically agreed to the United States taking over strategic installations in the Sinai peninsula "liberated" from Israeli occupation. Following are the significant features of the U.S. draft:

- The "multinational" force would mainly be composed of U.S. troops. They would be led by an American "civilian" director general. So far there are no reports of any "firm commitments" from any other nation ready to contribute to the Camp David police force. Both the United Nations and the Arab World are opposed to it.

- A U.S. battalion would be posted in the strategic points of Sharm al Sheikh at the Gulf of Aqaba, and in El Arish, on the Mediterranean.

- Military facilities built by Israel would be used by the new Sinai force. Earlier reports from

the U.S. have already suggested that the U.S. deployment in Sinai was to fit into the framework of the "Rapid Deployment" concept for the entire Middle East.

- The cost of the new force is to be split between the U.S., Egypt and Israel. Already Egypt and Israel get their money mainly through U.S. military "aid".

CARRINGTON ON PLO, MEETING WITH CHAIRMAN ARAFAT

In an interview with the BBC on May 12, British Foreign Minister Lord Carrington repeated the EEC's declaration of Venice last year that the PLO, which represented the Palestinian people, had to be associated to the negotiations, if peace was to be achieved in the Middle East. He also refuted claims that the PLO was a "terrorist body". Lord Carrington added that he might meet with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, after he takes over the chairmanship of the EEC Council of Ministers in July, if he thought it "useful and constructive to do so." Anyhow, Carrington apparently made further EEC moves in the Middle East dependent on the outcome of the Israeli elections and also insisted that they would not "undermine the Camp David" process but be agreed upon with the United States.

VAN DER KLAUW: ATTITUDE OF ARAB COUNTRIES IS MORE POSITIVE THAN ISRAEL'S

On May 25, the President of the EEC Council of Ministers, Dutch Foreign Minister Van Der Klaauw, in Algiers ended a tour through the Middle East which had taken him also to Israel and Saudi Arabia. On his departure for the Hague, he expressed his satisfaction with his talks in Algiers and declared the attitude of the Arab countries regarding his consultations had been more positive than Israel's:

INDIA AND KUWAIT: MIDDLE EAST NEEDS PEACE AND END OF ISRAELI AGGRESSION

India and Kuwait have reaffirmed their support for the Indian Ocean becoming a zone of peace. In a communique published in Kuwait on May 11, at the end of a visit of Indian Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi, the two sides emphatically advocate the implementation of the corresponding U.N. resolution.

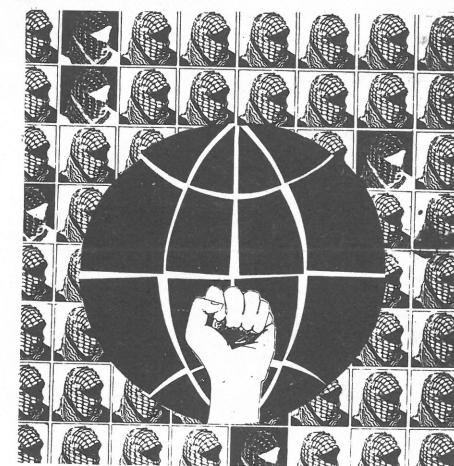
The two sides expressed deep concern over the escalation of tensions in the Middle East. They stated that a lasting peace in the region can only be achieved by Israel's withdrawal from all territories occupied since 1967 and by guaranteeing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian People, including their right to establish an independent state of their own. In the communique, which demands that the PLO participate in a Middle East settlement on an equal footing, the two states condemned Israel's acts of aggression against Lebanon.

PLO CALLS FOR SANCTIONS AGAINST NUMEIRI REGIME

On May 22, an official PLO spokesman issued a statement denouncing the recent invitation of President Sadat to visit Sudan.

This move comes at a time when the Palestinian Revolution and the Arab world are facing a vicious and unrelenting war being waged by the Zionist enemy inside the occupied territories and outside them in Lebanon, the statement said. By inviting Sadat, the Sudanese President Numeiri was violating the Baghdad and Tunis Summit resolutions which call for a boycott of the Egyptian regime and the rejection and confrontation of the Camp David accords and the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

The U.S. Administration was trying to push Sudan into becoming one of its pillars and to undermine the Arab confrontation of Camp David and of the capitulation to imperialist-Zionist attempts at control over the region. The PLO statement called on the Arab states — especially the Arab Foreign Ministers' meeting in Tunis — to adopt the necessary deterrent measures, according to unanimous Arab resolutions.



On the thirty-third anniversary of the usurpation of Palestine:

STRIKES AND DEMONSTRATIONS ERUPT IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Demonstrations and strikes erupted throughout the occupied territories, marking the 33rd anniversary of the occupation of Palestine and the creation of the colonial Zionist entity (May 15, 1948). The demonstrators flung stones and bottles at Israeli soldiers and chanted pro-PLO slogans. Several demonstrators were arrested.

In al-Duheisha Camp near Bethlehem, students went on strike and staged a demonstration during which they clashed with Israeli soldiers attempting to disperse them. Meanwhile in Ramallah, Hebron and Yatta, flags were raised on rooftops and anti-Israeli slogans written on the walls of school buildings and national institutions.

Bir Zeit University students also held a massive rally on the occasion. Other West Bank universities and schools closed down while many students participated in anti-occupation demonstrations.

In Ramallah, the Israeli forces stormed the Ramallah municipality building and dispersed people attending a cultural meeting.

The Israeli military spokesman admitted that Molotov cocktail bombs were thrown at Zionist military vehicles in several areas of the occupied West Bank. He also admitted that Palestinians in 1948 occupied Palestine are hiding over 21,000 firearms in secret places. (*Maariv*, May 13).



WEST BANK MAYORS: P.L.O. IS OUR SOLE REPRESENTATIVE.

During his fact-finding mission in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, EEC President Christopher Van Der Klaauw met with the West Bank mayors of Hebron, Bethlehem, Ramallah, Al-Bireh, Nablus and Tulkarm. During the meeting, which was held at the British Consulate in Jerusalem, the Mayor of Nablus, Bassam Shak'a, told the European official: "the Europeans should intensify their efforts to find a just solution for the Palestinian problem." Shak'a added: "Our objective is to establish a Palestinian state in Gaza and the West Bank". The Mayor of Ramallah, Karim Khalaf, said after the meeting: "We notified Van Der Klaauw for the second time of our objection to the Camp David treaties", and he added: "the P.L.O. is our sole representative".

PALESTINIANS IN NAQAB REFUSE CONSCRIPTION IN ZIONIST ARMY

The Israeli Communist Party daily *al-Ittihad* on May 12 reported that the Naqab notables and inhabitants signed a petition opposing the conscription of Arabs and bedouins of the Naqab into the Israeli army. The petition was sent to the Zionist Premier Menachem Begin.

The daily added that the Naqab notables and inhabitants rejected the activities of the Zionist agent Audeh Abu Ma'mar, who asked Premier Begin to draft the Arabs of the region into the Israeli army. The notables said that "such a suspicious call does not concern or commit us".

In a statement issued on Wednesday May 13, the Arab Students' Committee in Bir Sabe' University asserted that the Arabs of the Naqab are part and parcel of the Palestinian people.

The statement called for more national unity to defeat such moves aimed at dividing the Palestinian people.

PALESTINIAN BANKERS ARRESTED

The Zionist police authorities in Gaza have recently arrested Mr. Hisham al-Shawwa, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arab Palestine Bank as well as other officials in the Bank.

These arbitrary arrests took place on the pretext that a pamphlet published by the bank 20 years ago contains statements against the Zionist occupation of the Arab territories and Israeli policy towards these territories.

ZIONIST AUTHORITIES CONFISCATE MORE PALESTINIAN LANDS

On May 18, the Zionist occupation authorities informed 20

Palestinian villagers from Deir Jarir in the Ramallah district of a decision to seize over 130 dunums of their land in Wadi al-Maghrebi between the villages of Deir Jarir and Kafr Maleh. The occupation authorities claimed the decision had been taken for military reasons, and summoned the villagers to collect compensation.

The villagers categorically refused the whole idea of "compensation" for their land, and stressed their right to the land and their determination to defend this right. The Mukhtar of the village, Abdel Fattah Barakat, said that he had been summoned to the Zionist military governor's office four months ago and had been informed of the seizure order. But, he added, he had refused to acknowledge receipt of the order or to inform the owners concerned, because he rejects the measure as a whole.

The land to be seized includes vineyards and orchards. The occupation authorities had prevented the villagers from working their land through various means of harassment and pressure in order to claim that they were seizing "uncultivated" land.

In mid-August 1980, the Zionist authorities had confiscated other plots of land in the same village which they joined to the settlement of Kokhav Hashahar.

PALESTINIANS DETAINED FOR RAISING FLAG

The Israeli authorities have arrested a number of Palestinian citizens from the town of Deir Hanna, in the Triangle region of 1948-occupied Palestine. The ages of those arrested vary from 12 to 18 years with the exception of Adel Hussein Daghash (19) and Ahmad Sobhy Khamis (22). The other arrested are: Fursan Khamis, Youssef Daghash, Talal Shehada and Bassam Salem. No official reason was given for their arrest though sources from

the Military Governor's office claim that it is related to the raising of the Palestinian flag in the town square on May 9. The Israeli authorities are also harassing the entire population of the town by calling in people indiscriminately for long periods of so-called "interrogation".

MOTHER OF DETAINEE APPEALS FOR INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION

The mother of the Palestinian detainee Abdel Majid Hashim Abu Gharbiyeh on May 15 called on international organizations and world public opinion to intervene to save the life of her son, who has been detainee in an Israeli jail since 1972 on charges of affiliation to 'Fateh'. Abu Gharbiyeh is reported to be in extremely poor health due to the appalling conditions in Israeli prisons.

WEST BANK POLITICAL LEADERS ADDRESS NURSES' DAY RALLY

The Union of Nurses and Midwives in the West Bank held a mass rally on May 13 on the occasion of the International Nurses' Day. The rally, which was held in the Women's Union Hall in Jerusalem, was attended by Mayors Bassam al-Shak'a of Nablus, Karim Khalaf of Ramallah, and Ibrahim al-Tawil of al-Bireh, in addition to several prominent West Bank figures such as the representatives of the Engineering and Lawyers' Unions.

During the rally the head of the Palestinian National Guidance Committee, Ibrahim Daqqaq, delivered a short speech in which he praised the results of the Palestine National Congress' 15th session as the embodiment of Palestinian unity.

Daqqaq called on citizens in the occupied territories to confront the dangerous conspiracy being hatched against them and rally around the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

OCCUPATION

DIARY

W.H.O. ADOPTS RESOLUTIONS ON HEALTH OF PALESTINIANS UNDER OCCUPATION

The 34th World Health Assembly on May 21 adopted a resolution entitled "Health Conditions of the Arab Population in the Occupied Arab Territories, including Palestine."

The text of the resolution is as follows:

The thirty-fourth World Health Assembly,

A. Requests the Director General to increase collaboration and coordination with the Palestine Liberation Organisation concerning necessary assistance to the Palestinian people.

B. Having examined the annual report of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, is deeply concerned by the deterioration of the situation suffered by the Agency concerning its budget and the services provided, due to the repeated Israeli aggression,

1. Requests states to increase their contribution to enable the Agency to continue carrying out the tasks assigned to it.

2. Requests the Director-General to continue his collaboration with UNRWA by all possible means and to the extent necessary to ease the difficulties it is facing and increase the services it provides to the Palestinian people.

C.

1. Expresses its deep concern at the poor health and psychological conditions suffered by the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories including Palestine, and condemns Israel's attempts to incorporate Arab health institutions into the occupation authorities' institutions.

2. Condemns all acts undertaken by Israel to change the physical aspects, the geography, the institutional and legal status or context of the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine, and considers Israel's policy in settling part of its population and new settlers in the occupied territories a flagrant violation of the Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war and the relevant United Nations Resolutions.

3. Condemns the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine, and the illicit exploitation of natural wealth and resources of the Arab inhabi-

tants in those territories, especially the confiscation of Arab resources and their diversion for the purposes of occupation and settlement.

4. Condemns the inhuman practices to which Arab prisoners and detainees are subjected in Israeli prisons, resulting in the deterioration of their health, psychological and mental conditions, and causing death and permanent physical disability.

5. Condemns Israel for its refusal to apply the 4th Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war, of 12 August 1949.

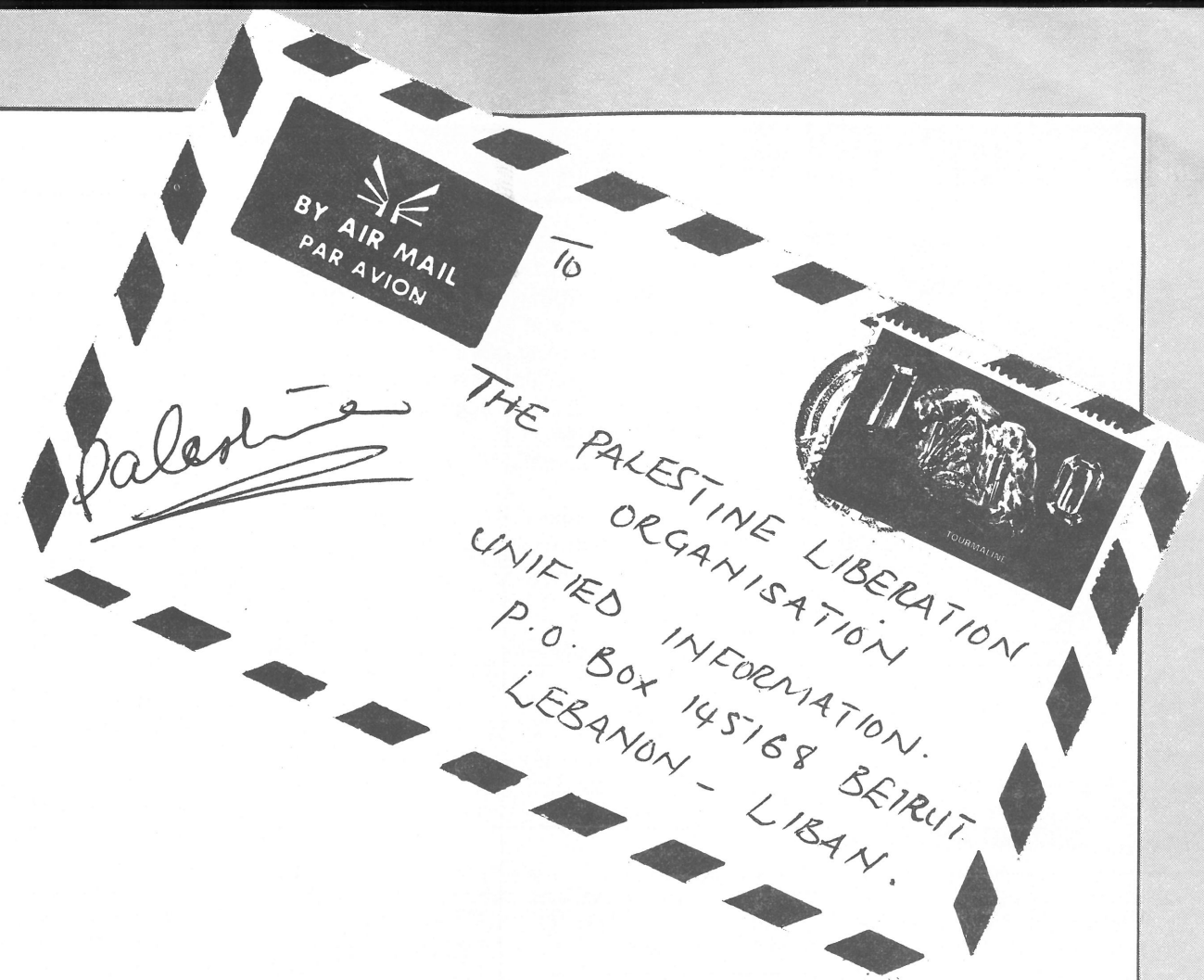
6. Condemns Israel for its refusal to implement World Health Assembly and other international organizations' resolutions calling upon it to allow refugees and displaced persons to return to their homes.

7. Condemns Israel for its arbitrary practices and its continuous shelling of Palestine refugee camps in south Lebanon which affects the physical, social and psychological health conditions of the Arab inhabitants, and considers that its refusal to implement resolutions of the WHO constitutes an explicit breach of the letter and spirit of the W.H.O.

8. Endorses the opinion of the special committee of experts that the socio-economic situation of a population and its state of health are closely related, and that the sociopolitical situation existing in the occupied territories, including Palestine, is favourable neither to the improvement of the state of health of the population concerned nor to the full development of services adapted to the promotion of human welfare.

9. Condemns Israel for not allowing the special committee freedom to carry out its tasks according to the World Health Assembly resolution 33.18 especially with respect to visiting prisoners.

10. Requests the special committee to continue its task with respect to all the implications of occupation and the policies of the occupying Israeli authorities and their various practices which adversely affect the health conditions of the Arab inhabitants in the occupied territories, including Palestine, and to submit a report to the 35th WHO, bearing in mind all the provisions of this resolution, in coordination with the Arab states concerned and the PLO."



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unfortunately they didn't succeed in crushing the P.L.O., even after uncountable attempts have been made. The P.L.O. will emerge victorious.

Yours faithful comrade

Fuad Said Sherman
Mombassa-Kenya

Dear Editor,

As a regular reader of the "Palestine" bulletin I first of all express my support for my Palestinian brothers on the occasion of the International Palestine Solidarity Day. I hate fascism, Zionism etc. Peace-minded people the world over are now realizing what's the truth about the views propagated by the Americans and the Israelis. My support for my Palestinian brothers is to continue until their victory over Zionism, which they will achieve soon.

Shahid
Chittagong, Bangladesh

Dear fellows,

The world all over has been illuminated on the fact of the USA's assistance to Israel and the oppression that is already existing in Palestine.

Ever since the creation of "Israel", the U.S.A. acted like a slave to Zionism by implementing Israel's wishes.

Dear Friends

It is with lots and lots of love that I write to you today. My salams to your entire rank and file.

Your magazine "Palestine" is so educative, I would be pleased to have copies from time to time. I have read so much about Zionist-Israel and the Middle East War in the library of my former school. Always, I hate to think of the suppression and sufferings of the Palestinians and the South African blacks. I hate the American administration because of Palestine and South Africa.

I support the PLO, POLISARIO, and SWAPO, but that is all I can do. I have nothing material to offer. However, I join you and all peace-loving nations and people in praying that soon, very soon, a wind of change blows over all oppressed brothers and sisters.

With lots of love

ABDULAH HUSEINI BRAIMAH

SOLIDARITY



NEW FILM ON COLLABORATION BETWEEN NAZISM AND ZIONISM

The progressive British actress Vanessa Redgrave is currently setting up for producing a new film dedicated to uncovering the close collaboration between Zionism and Nazism.

Ms. Redgrave talked about her broad research through documents of the Second World War, in which she found clear evidence of the connivance between Zionism and Nazism.

The film would show by evidence and documented incidents the covert cooperation that existed among Hagana, Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Nazis who massacred Jews.

HKFS EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY WITH PLO

On March 1981, the Vice President of the Hong Kong Federation of Students (HKFS) sent a solidarity message to the PLO on the 5th anniversary of the Day of the Land, March 30.

The message affirmed the students' full support for the PLO: "The HKFS has been supporting the Palestinian cause for years and at the 23rd annual conference, recent-

ly held in February, we reaffirmed our support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, territorial integrity and establishing an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil." It denounced Zionist aggression against south Lebanon and the Zionist annexation of East Jerusalem.

"We believe that it is important to broaden and deepen the understanding of the Palestinian cause by the general mass of students, and that with the undaunted struggle of the Palestinian people and the cumulative efforts of all the peace-loving people in the world, the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people for their homeland can be actualized in the future," the message concluded.

ASA REAFFIRMS SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE

The Secretary General of the Asian Association ASA, on March 31, sent a solidarity message to the PLO Foreign Information Department on the occasion of the Palestinian Day of the Land.

The message reaffirmed ASA's stand in supporting the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people. "The struggle of the Palestinians is an integral part of the struggle of the third world people in general and Asian people in particular against colonialism, imperialism, racism and any form of foreign domination or intervention."

At its seventh General Conference held in January 1981 in Melbourne, Australia, ASA stressed its full solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and confirmed the Palestinian people's right to the return of their lands, to build their independent state and decide their own fate.

The Conference also denounced

the imperialist-Zionist conspiracies against the Palestinian people through the Camp David accords, and condemned the expansionist policy of the Zionists, and their occupation of the Arab land. The recent development in South Lebanon, in which Zionists and reactionaries attempted to divide Lebanon, and the stubborn posture of the Reagan Administration of the United States confirm that the Palestine question is still the central issue of the Middle East situation.

BULGARIA CONDEMNS ISRAELI AGGRESSION AGAINST LEBANON

Bulgaria has strongly condemned the relentless Israeli acts of aggression on south Lebanon. The statement came as the PLO representative in Sofia presented his credentials to the Bulgarian Foreign Minister on May 10.

During the meeting the Foreign Minister expressed his satisfaction with the development of the militant relations between the PLO and Bulgaria. He said that Bulgaria has offered and will continue to offer all kinds of assistance to the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO. The Minister finally denounced the continued Israeli attacks against Palestinian camps in south Lebanon.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FEDERATION CALLS FOR SUPPORT OF PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE PEOPLES

The Secretariat of the International Student Federation, in a communique issued in Prague on May 18, denounced American policy in the Middle East, and the use of the Israeli war machine against the peoples of the region.

The communique, which was presented to the PLO representative in Prague, called on student organizations the world over to support the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples in their heroic confron-

tation against the escalating American-backed Israeli acts of aggression.

The communique also called for support of the Syrian people and Government in their firm stand against Zionism and imperialism.

AMERICAN LABOR FEDERATION SUPPORTS PALESTINIAN INDEPENDENT STATE

The delegation of the American Federation of Labor currently touring the occupied West Bank has confirmed its full support for the Palestinian people's struggle and their rights to self-determination and to establish an independent Palestinian state.

The statement was issued on May 18 following the delegation's visit to the bureau for Palestinian services in Jerusalem, where it listened to a detailed account on the deteriorating situation and the oppression of Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The briefing, which was given by the lawyer Abdeen Jibara, also exposed Israeli threats and military censorship exercised against the Palestinian press, in an attempt to strike at the will of the Palestinian people expressed by these institutions.

The American delegation also visited the headquarters of the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Palestinian Trade Unions Federation in Gaza.

AMERICAN BEQUEATHES DONATION TO PALESTINE CAUSE.

The Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, Fred Sparcks, who died in New York in early May, left in his will 25,000 dollars for the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO. A Zionist judge of the surrogate court is trying to block this amount.

NORWEGIAN UNIONS CALL FOR JUST SOLUTION TO MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT

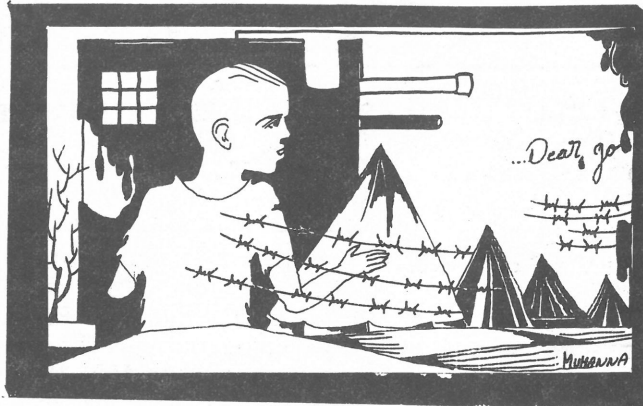
The Norwegian Trade Union Congress called on May 10 for a just solution to the Middle East conflict including the realization of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

The statement also called for official Norwegian recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and its participation in any negotiations for a Mideast peace settlement.

PALESTINIAN AND VIETNAMESE WRITERS ISSUE JOINT COMMUNIQUE

A visiting delegation of the Union of Writers and Journalists of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the General Union of Palestinian Writers and Journalists issued a joint communique on May 13 in which the former asserted their support for Palestinian writers and fighters in their confrontation against imperialism and Zionism.



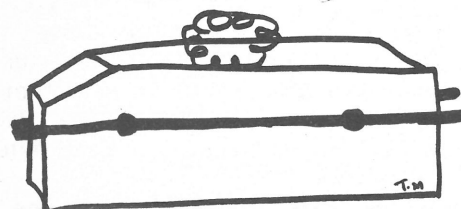


TEARS FROM PALESTINIAN CHILDREN TO GOD

BY TILJI MENJO, PUBLISHED
BY PLO FOREIGN INFORMATION DEPT.

21

Dear God,
MY MOTHER CRIES
EVERYDAY WHEN SHE
SEES BOXES LIKE THIS.



THEY BRING THEM
EVERYDAY. AND DIG. AND
BURY IT IN THE SAND.
MY MOTHER CRIE
WHY?

YOURS
Palestinian
Child.

29

Dearest God,
Mum Says we will
One day go back to
Our house we left.
I'll Sleep in my room
Play with my friend.
I Can't believe my
eyes when the
day Comes.

Love,
Palestinian
Child.

15

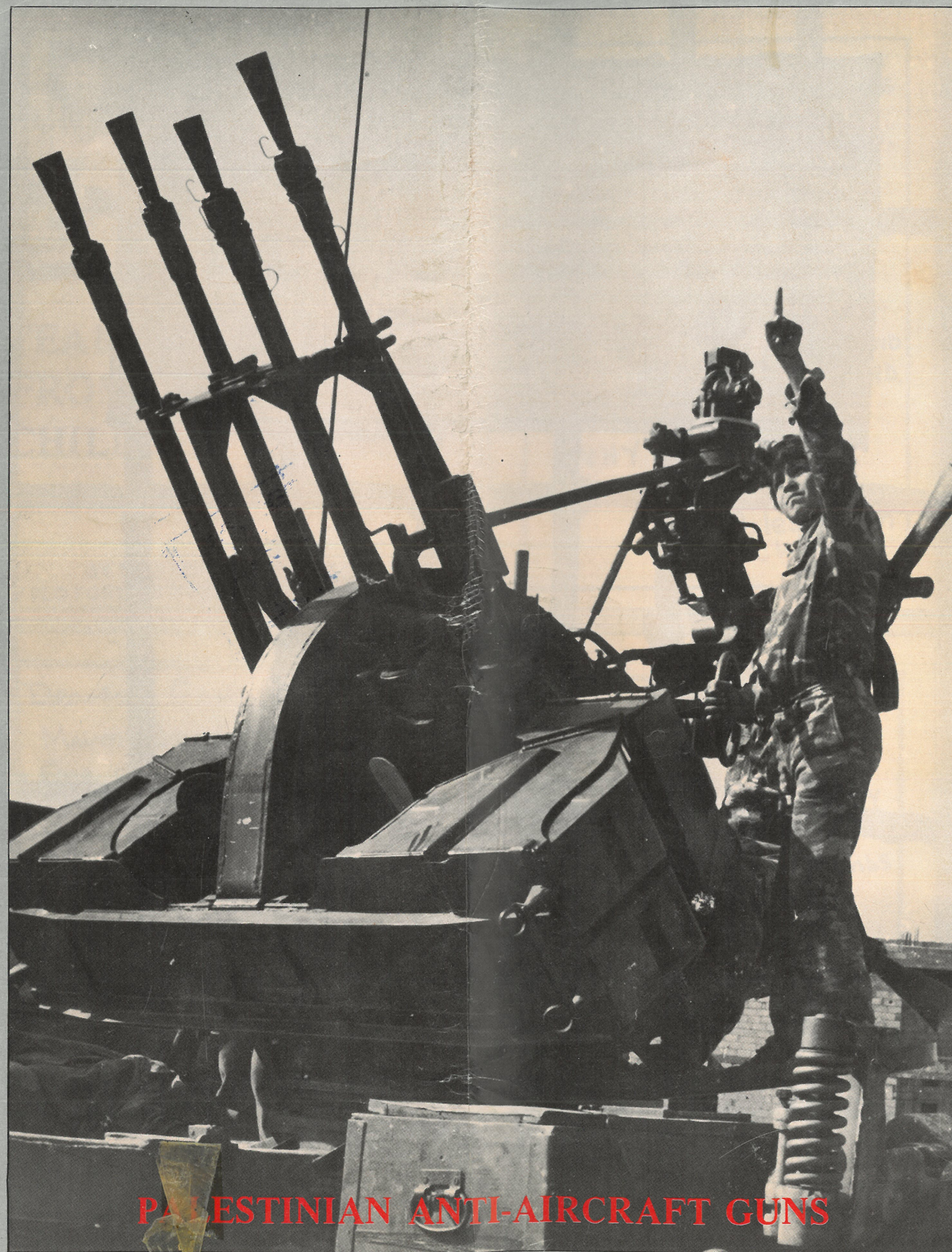
Dear God,
Here we see your
Planes everyday. They
Came Yesterday
and dropped Bombs
On our tents. I
ranned very fast
to hide in the stone.
I laughed alot.

Yours,
Palestinian
Child.

Mother, melody of the day,
Do you hear me?
My heart is throbbing, with yearning and tenderness.
Mother, I wish you could hear
My anxious call penetrating the wall,
Reaching you with the birds weeping over the homes,
Coming with the rain that hovers over the abandoned homes of tragedies and pains.
Mother, most beautiful of melodies!
You who created my visible existence from the belly of nothingness.

From the poem "Letters of a Prisoner"
by Abdul Nasser Salih.





PALESTINIAN ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS

Palestine

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NAIM KHADER:
PLO REPRESENTATIVE
VICTIM OF ZIONIST
TERRORISM

