



VICTORY IN SIGHT

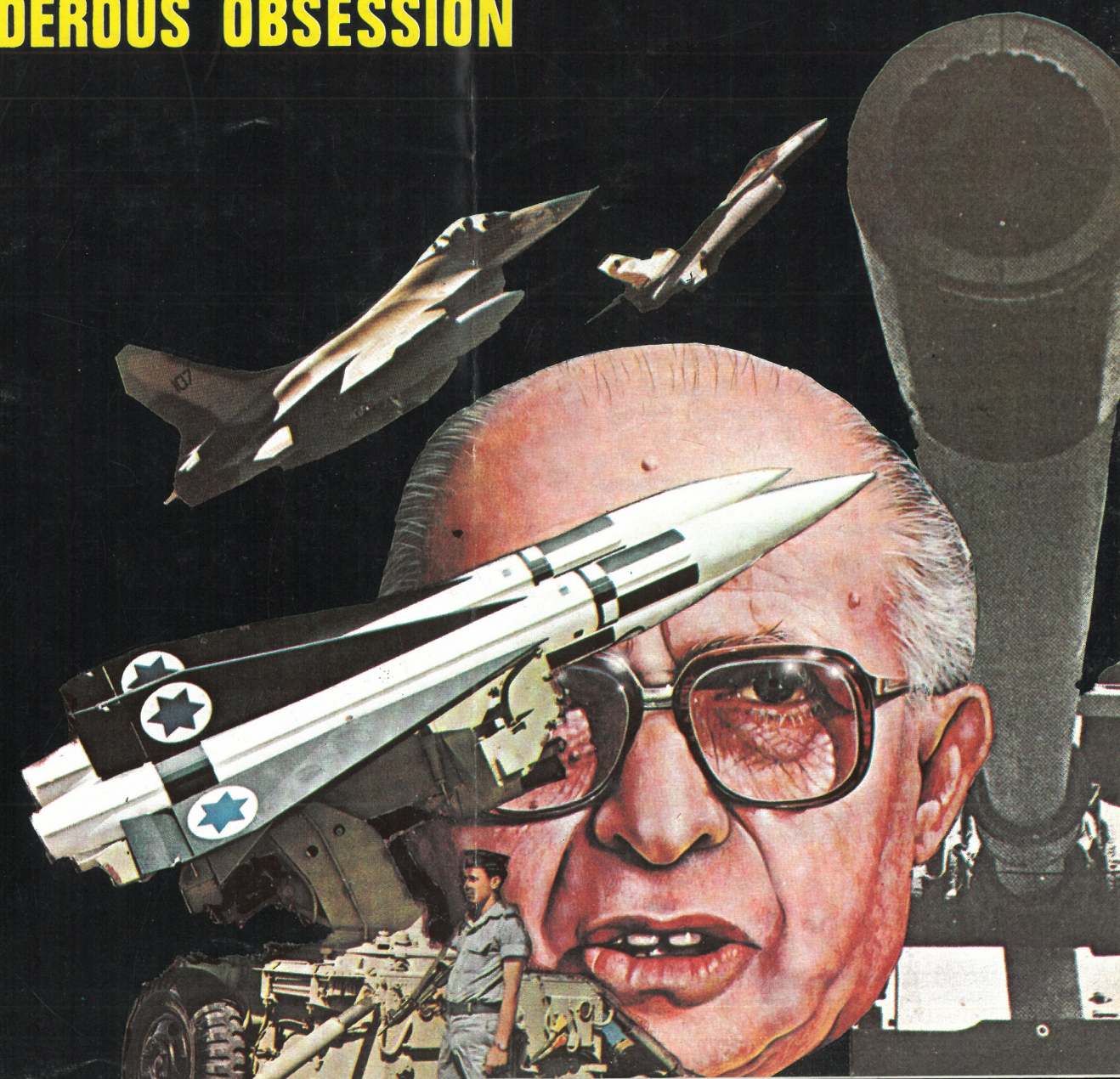
Palestine

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BEGIN'S MURDEROUS OBSESSION



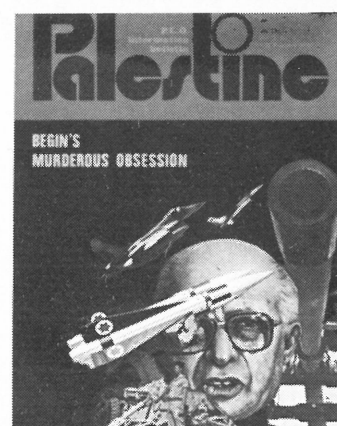
TO OUR READERS

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

MITTERRAND AND ISRAEL

Mitterrand's visit to Israel is coming at a very critical period. It comes at a time when the Israelis have already announced the annexation of the Golan Heights, the increased repression against the Palestinians in the occupied territories, the closure of the Universities in the West Bank, the continuous confiscation of land, the construction of new colonial settlements, the expulsion of civilians, etc.

One has to question why Mr. Mitterrand is going to Israel and at this particular moment. Whose interests is he serving? Definitely the French President, the first European President to visit Israel, is not serving either Palestinian or French interests. With his visit he is only serving Begin's short-sighted expansionist ambitions. Maybe he is also satisfying his entourage who are partly ardent Zionists.

It is a pity that the French President, who once as a young man resisted the Nazi occupation of France, is paying an official visit to the most reactionary force in the world. One has to ask: why does Mr. Mitterrand not visit the fascist Republic of South Africa? The French President and his government are also very active in helping Israel's return to Africa, from which its influence was expelled after the 1967 war.

Some French circles say that he is going to Israel to tell the Zionists something about the Palestinians. Some say that he is indebted to them because he promised them during his election campaign to visit Israel. But all these arguments

are only emotional arguments which should not influence the policy of an important political power like France. With this attitude, the French President is not only encouraging Israeli arrogance and brutality, but he is also encouraging other European leaders to follow his example. Another very important and serious problem which could arise is that the French President could sell arms to Israel, thus breaking the embargo imposed by De Gaulle after the 1967 war. With such a policy he would not only encourage the arrogant mentality of the Israelis but also enhance their aggressiveness.

The Socialist Party of France, with its declared principles for liberation and social justice, is ill-advised to accept such a policy practised by its President. The French people should be questioned about the usefulness of this visit to their national and economic interests. The French working class who voted for Mitterrand should be asked whether their jobs would be jeopardised by any boycott of French firms, like Renault and others. Mr. Mitterrand, who criticised his predecessors because of the high rate of unemployment, will increase this rate if French firms are banned from the oil-rich Arab countries.

Again the Palestinian people will not be discouraged, but this President of France has shown his bias in favour of the aggressors and torturers. The Palestinian Resistance will triumph, just as the French Resistance triumphed over the Nazis.

PALESTINE CHRONOLOGY

January 25: Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and Commander-in-Chief of the forces of the Palestinian Revolution, received a cable from Babrak Karmal, President of Afghanistan, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Democratic People's Party and President of the Revolutionary Council of Afghanistan, on the occasion of the Palestinian Revolution's 17th anniversary.

Karmal affirmed the solidarity of the Afghani people, party and Government with the Palestinian people and their sole legitimate representative the PLO, without whom no just solution which guarantees the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people could be achieved.

January 27: Yasser Arafat received a message from the Soviet leadership dealing with the latest developments in the Middle East region. The message was delivered by the Soviet Charge d'Affaires in Beirut.

January 28: The Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ionnis Haralambopoulos received the PLO representative in Athens, Shawqi al-Armali, who presented his credentials as diplomatic representative of the PLO in Greece.

During the meeting, the Greek Minister reiterated the support of the Greek Government to the struggle of the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the PLO, for the recovery of their legitimate national rights. He added that the spirit of the successful visit of Chairman Arafat to Greece must be followed up, towards developing and strengthening Greek — Arab relations. He asked Mr. Armali to convey to Arafat, as well as to Mr. Farouk Kaddoumi, his best salutations and wishes.

Greece decided to grant the PLO full diplomatic status during Arafat's visit to Greece last December.

January 30: Yasser Arafat received the Lebanese Minister of Tourism, Marwan Hamadeh. They discussed the latest developments locally and in the Arab arena.

January 3: Fateh Central Committee members Abu Jihad and Abu al-Walid met with the Commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Gen. William Callaghan.

The meeting dealt with the situation in south Lebanon and the relationship between the PLO and the UN forces.

The director of the European Affairs section of the PLO Political Department received the Greek Ambassador to Lebanon. The Ambassador reaffirmed his government's commitment to consolidate the militant relations between the Palestinian and Greek peoples in order to promote their common cause and interests.

February 7: Chairman Arafat received a delegation of the Council of Churches for North-West America. Also present at the meeting were Fateh Central Committee member Abu al-Walid and Father Ibrahim Ayyad, member of the Palestinian National Council.

Discussions focussed on the most important developments of the Palestine cause, and the current Middle East situation in the light of moves by the United States Administration and the Israeli military threats against the Palestinian Revolution.

February 8: Yasser Arafat received the Soviet Charge d'Affaires of the Soviet Embassy in Beirut and handed him an urgent letter to be delivered to the Soviet leadership. The letter dealt with the dangers of the current situation, and repeated Israeli threats against the Palestinian Revolution and the Joint Forces in south Lebanon and Beirut.

February 10: Farouk Kaddoumi, Head of the PLO Political Department, received the Ambassador of the German Democratic Republic to Lebanon.

They discussed the most important current developments in the Arab and international arenas, as well as the current situation in south Lebanon and its possible ramifications in view of the increasing Israeli threats to launch a wide attack against the Palestinian Revolution.

The Ambassador expressed the complete support of his country for the struggle of the Palestinian people.

Kaddoumi in turn praised the GDR's position of firm and principled support for the Palestinian people, affirming the strong appreciation of the Palestinian Revolution for this stand and informing him of its intention to develop the ties of struggle between the two parties.

Salah Zawawi, the PLO representative in Tehran, met with Ali Akbar Vilayati, the Islamic Republic's Minister of Foreign Affairs, handing him a letter from Farouk Kaddoumi Head of the PLO Political Department.

During the meeting, Vilayati reiterated his country's support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of its sole legitimate representative, the PLO. He also said that the slogan "Today Iran, Tomorrow Palestine", which was first raised by Imam Khomeini will remain before the eyes of all the citizens of the Islamic Republic.

Vilayati also stressed the necessity of developing fraternal relations between the Palestinian and Iranian revolutions, against imperialism, Zionism, and reactionary regimes.

The one-hour meeting was described as cordial and fraternal.

Chairman Arafat received a cable from Pope John Paul II in answer to Arafat's message on the New Year. The Pope wished Arafat good health and happiness.

February 12: Fateh Central Committee member Abu Jihad received an official Iranian delegation composed of Hojatolislam Muhsin Shabastri, Shaiks Muhammad Amin and Muhsin Dan Shor, and the Chargé d'Affaires at the Iranian Embassy. Fateh Central Committee member Abu al-Walid also attended the meeting.

The two sides exchanged points of view about the latest developments in Iran. They also discussed the situation in south Lebanon and the Israeli military buildup there, and surveyed the latest developments in the occupied territories.

February 13: Yasser Arafat received the Cuban Ambassador to Lebanon and handed him an urgent letter to Fidel Castro, in his capacity as both President of Cuba and current head of the Non-Aligned movement.

The letter dealt with the deteriorating situation in south Lebanon, and the possibility of an imminent wide-scale attack against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

Arafat sent an urgent letter to King Khaled Ben Abdel Aziz of Saudi Arabia, in both his capacities as Monarch and as President of the Islamic Conference Organisation. The letter, which was also addressed to Crown Prince Fahd, dealt with the critically deteriorating situation in south Lebanon and the eventuality of a wide-scale Israeli attack against the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

The letter was handed to the Saudi Monarch by Fateh Central Committee members Hani al-Hassan and Salim Za'roun.

February 15: Yasser Arafat received the British Ambassador to Lebanon, Mr. David Roberts.

During the meeting, the Ambassador handed Arafat an urgent letter from the British government dealing with the current situation in Lebanon.

EVENTS IN PHOTOS

*Arafat receives British Ambassador
to Lebanon David Roberts*



*With Muhsin Ibrahim of LNM,
Nabih Berri of Amal
and Mohammed Chanem of ADF.*



*Abu Jihad and Abu al-Walid
Fateh Central Committee members
receive Iranian delegation.*

PALESTINIAN LEADERS HOLD INTENSIVE MEETING WITH LEBANESE NATIONAL GROUPS AND LEADERS

Throughout the first two weeks of February 1982, the Palestinian leadership has held intensive meetings and discussions with various Lebanese national groups and leadership. The discussions were centred on the current situation in the Arab region, with special attention to the Lebanese arena with reference to Israeli threats against the Palestinian and Lebanese masses.

On February 1, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat met with the Speaker of the Lebanese Parliament, Kamel Al-As'ad, in the presence of Abu al-Walid, member of the Fateh Central Committee and Director of Central Military Operations of the Palestinian-Lebanese Joint Forces.

After the meeting Arafat declared: "We support the implementation of all international resolutions issued on south Lebanon, and we shall offer the Lebanese authorities all the assistance needed to implement them."

Al-As'ad affirmed that the Palestinian Resistance does not have any reservations about any practical formulae guaranteeing implementation of these resolutions, either through the UN forces or without them. The Palestinian Resistance, he added, in fact believes in the unity of Lebanese and Palestinian ranks, and in the complete unity of Arab ranks concerning this matter.

Al-As'ad pointed out that Israel always tries

ARAFAT BRIEFS URQUHART ON ISRAELI CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS

On February 4, Chairman Yasser Arafat met with UN Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Brian Urquhart in Beirut. They discussed the situation in south Lebanon, and the repeated Israeli threats and continuing military build-up in south Lebanon and in northern Palestine. They also discussed the constant Israeli violations of the ceasefire as represented in the daily overflights and naval patrols off the Lebanese coast.

Arafat also briefed Urquhart on Israeli practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, and the continuous escalation of its terror campaigns. Arafat also expressed the Palestinian Revolution's and the PLO's concern to keep the ceasefire across the Lebanese border in force, in confirmation of its previous commitments and the continuation of cooperation with UNIFIL.

The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by Fateh Central Committee members Abu Jihad and

to find pretexts and justifications for its aggressive plans.

On February 6, Chairman Arafat attended a three-hour meeting with leaders of the Lebanese National Movement (LNM), Amal movement, and the Arab Deterrent Forces and discussed means of coordination in order to maintain security in south Lebanon.

The meeting was attended by LNM Executive General Secretary Muhsin Ibrahim, Amal Command Council President Nabih Berri, Col. Muhammad Ghanem of the ADF, and Baath Party Regional Secretary Assem Qanso.

On February 10, Arafat received Walid Junblatt, President of the Progressive Socialist Party and the Lebanese National Movement.

The meeting dealt with the current situation on the local, Arab and international levels.

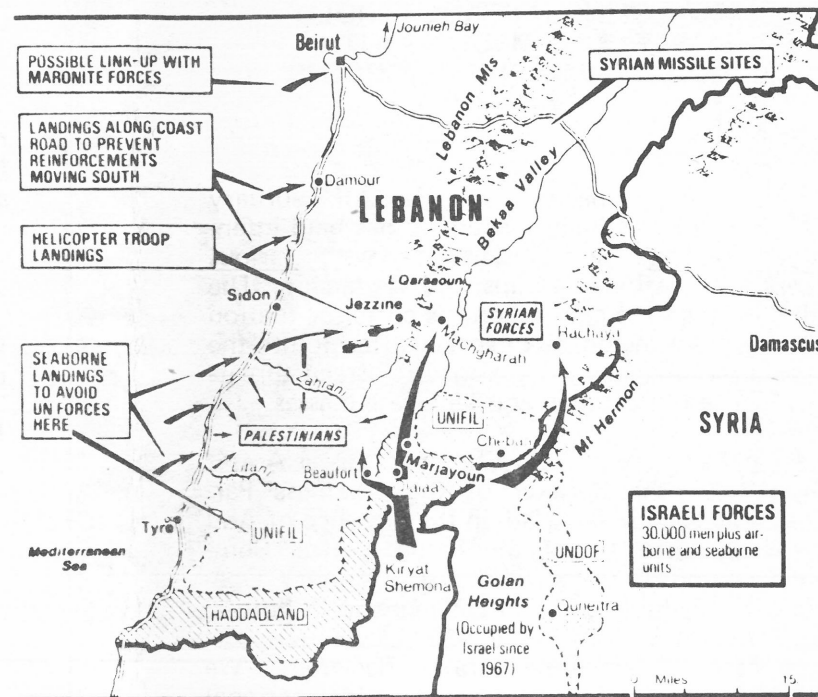
Later, Arafat received Ibrahim Quleilat, President of the Independent Nasserite Movement-al-Murabitoun; Mustafa Saad, General Secretary of the Nasserite Popular Organization as well as other officials representing Nasserite Lebanese groups. The meeting dealt with the latest developments in the Lebanese arena, with particular reference to the situation in South Lebanon, and the continuous Israeli military build-up there.

The Nasserite delegation then briefed Arafat on the steps they have already taken towards the unity of all the Nasserite organizations and their adoption of a unified political and organizational charter.



*Abu al-Walid; Mamdouh, DFLP Military Commander,
Ali Ishaq, PLF Military Commander; Col. Abdel
Razzaq al-Mujaydeh and Abu Hmeid, PASC Com-
mander. The UN delegation included Gen. William
Callaghan, Commander of UNIFIL; Iqbal Akhund,
UN Ambassador to Lebanon; UN Information Centre
Director Samir Sanbar, and other UNIFIL officials.*

ISRAEL PREPARES FOR LEBANON INVASION THREATENS ALL OUT MIDDLE EAST WAR



Israeli armed forces are poised ready to make an invasion of Lebanon. The U.S. *Time* magazine of February 15 has reported that Israeli war minister Ariel Sharon and Chief of Staff Gen. Raphael Eytan had put forward a plan to carry out massive air and ground strikes on PLO positions in south Lebanon and to occupy the area between the Litani and Zahrani rivers.

As part of the preparations for such an invasion, Sharon held a secret meeting with Bashir Gemayel, the leader of the fascist separatists in Lebanon. The meeting took place aboard an Israeli warship off the coast from Juniyeh. *Time* magazine reports that the discussion focussed on coordination of action between the two parties during the invasion. Meanwhile, Tel Aviv is continuing its frantic military preparations in northern occupied Palestine and in the borderstrip of Lebanon, occupied by Israel in 1978.

The Israeli military build up began immediately following their annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights. On December 14, Israel concentrated its troops and heavy artillery in the enclave controlled by the Israeli stooge Saad Haddad, especially in areas facing Beaufort Castle, Rihane, Aishiyeh, and Mahmoudiyeh, as well as Khardali bridge which are controlled by the Joint Lebanese Palestinian patriotic forces. Amongst the heavy armaments brought in are batteries of long-range artillery as well as tanks, about thirty of which have taken up positions in Khayyam. The Beirut daily *As-Safir* reports that Israel has recently brought in a major tank formation to the area surrounding At-Taibe, opposite Beaufort Castle.

At the same time, Israeli naval vessels continually intrude into Lebanese territorial waters and ply along the coast from Zaharani to Ras Al-Ain. Daily, Israeli helicopters carry out reconnaissance flights over south Lebanon and airforce jets continue to violate

The imminence of the invasion is reflected in the never-ending string of allegations and threats from Zionist leaders. Israeli spokesmen have not ceased to multiply their threats and warnings in recent weeks.

On Israeli radio on January 22, Sharon declared: "Israel will not tolerate the northern frontier areas becoming again targets of Palestinian artillery." On January 19, when Sharon was talking with Mubarak in Cairo, he issued similar veiled threats. It seems that by testing Egyptian reaction to the planned invasion, Israel wants to create a pretext for holding back the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Sinai.

Eytan, on January 30 in the Knesset, referring to the Palestinian commando raid into occupied Palestine said that the operation constituted a violation of the ceasefire of July 24, 1981. Four days later, while inspecting Israeli tanks in Metoulla in the north of occupied Palestine, Sharon threatened: "The Palestinians know that we are absolutely resolved to use our military power overwhelmingly to reply to any blow at our security." (*L'Orient — Le Jour* February 4, 1982) Later the same day, on radio, he declared that Israel had taken all "necessary precautions" to restrict the Palestinians from acting against Israel from outside — a clear reference to the invasion preparations. He warned, "The Palestinian 'terrorists' are observing the ceasefire in south Lebanon, but they permit themselves to act against Israel from other frontiers: this situation must stop."

Shamir, Israeli foreign minster, addressing a foreign affairs and defence committee in the Knesset on January 3, said: "our troops will reply with a large-scale attack on south Lebanon against any fedayeen operation." The former leader of the Labour



Israeli troops in south Lebanon: awaiting green light for aggression

Party Yitzhak Rabin also declared that "in case of a resumption of the war of nerves as in last July, the Israeli army ought to penetrate into south Lebanon to silence the long-range artillery of the Palestinians. An air operation would no longer suffice." (*L'Orient - Le Jour* February 4, 1982)

The U.S. backers of Zionist aggression are also letting slip with barely-veiled threats, utilising the "Soviet bogeyman" in the Middle East. Alexander Haig, U.S. Secretary of State, at a press conference on February 5, claimed that increased Soviet aid to the Palestinians "could be the prelude to renewed fighting. "According to the London *Times* of February 9, there is continuous close contact between Washington and Tel Aviv on the Lebanese situation. U.S. representative to the UN, Jeane Kirkpatrick's statements, in an interview with Israeli radio on January 23, regarding PLO "terrorism", clearly expose the conspiracy planned by the U.S. and its propaganda machine against the PLO in preparation for the aggression to be carried out by Israel.

According to Israeli military radio on February 8, Sharon reaffirmed that "Israel would not tolerate 'terrorist' infiltrations, whether they be over the northern border or any other border." Sharon was apparently referring to an operation carried out by Palestinian commandos in the Jordan valley inside occupied Palestine. Sharon also mentioned Damour in central Lebanon as the alleged training camp for the commandos. The Israeli leaders are trying to establish a link between any military resistance operation against the occupation inside the occupied territories

MURDEROUS ATTEMPT ON PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMP

At 2:00 p.m. on Saturday February 13, the security forces of the Palestinian Resistance discovered a huge explosive charge planted in a civilian car, which was parked in the Palestinian refugee camp of 'Ain al-Helweh near the southern Lebanese town of Sidon. The charge was estimated at between 100 and 200 kilograms of T.N.T. The car was immediately taken outside the camp and as the charge was being dismantled, parts of it exploded killing six people and wounding 10 others. The car was first suspected by children playing nearby who informed the Palestinian security forces.

On February 14, several Lebanese newspapers carried photographs of the Israeli detonators used in the terror machine, clearly stamped with Hebrew lettering. A much greater tragedy among the civilian population was averted only due to the fact that the car had been moved out of the densely populated refugee camp.

A meeting of the PLO Higher Military Council in Beirut the same day condemned the explosion as a new act of terror carried out by the Zionist leaders and their agents against the Palestinian refugee camps. The meeting took a number of measures designed to confront the situation.

and the PLO-Israeli ceasefire concerning the Lebanese border, thus seeking a pretext to invade Lebanon. According to Ouri Poratz, Begin's spokesman, the Israeli government is "in no doubt that by this operation in the Jordan Valley, the 'terrorists' have broken the ceasefire."

These brutal threats and sabre-rattling constitute a political and psychological propaganda campaign in preparation for the invasion. The repeated allegations of a break in the ceasefire and the implication of Damour in the Tayasir operation reveal the blatantly aggressive intentions of the Israelis and their U.S. backers. The sheer abundance of U.S. and Zionist statements on this matter show that they think a political conjuncture, propitious for such an offensive, now exists.

On February 9, the American *NBC* correspondent in Israel reported that there was every indication that the Israeli plans were to have been implemented during the first week of February, but had been postponed because of differences of opinion inside Begin's cabinet as to whether such a move was timely or not. It is supposed that Haig favours a selective strike at PLO bases in Lebanon instead of a widescale invasion and the occupation of more Lebanese territory.

On February 13, the head of the Israeli Communist Party, Meir Vilner, affirmed that Israel had not attacked south Lebanon due to a strongly-worded warning from the Soviet Union. According to Vilner, the Soviet government also sent a copy of the note to Washington. (*L'Orient-Le-Jour* February 16, 1982).

The *NBC* correspondent noted however, that some ministers including Begin believe that the time is right for dealing a blow, since Israel had not yet withdrawn from Sinai. He added that Israel was simply waiting for a "fitting pretext" to lash out at the PLO in Lebanon.

At the same time, Israel is extending its brutal threats and "warnings" to Syria, as if it was not Israel which had just committed an unprecedented aggression by annexing the Golan Heights.

On February 14, Gen. Eytan declared on Israeli Radio, that the chances for a "diplomatic solution"



ABU IYAD: "ISRAEL RULED BY TERRORIST MANIACS"

In an interview with the Beirut weekly *"Monday Morning"* on February 15, 1982, Fateh Central Committee member Abu Iyad declared that an Israeli aggression against Lebanon was inevitable as long as Israel was being ruled by "the world's most famous terrorist maniacs," Abu Iyad said, but the invasion would not necessarily come before the April 25 withdrawal from Sinai, as some people were saying. It would come when Israel received the "green light" from the United States, and the United States would give the green light when it considered that the proper justification had been established — which could be before or after April 25.

But in the meantime, Israel might find it "easier" to mount smaller operations: attacks on specific bases or persons in the south and in Beirut — "perhaps five or ten such operations in various parts of the country simultaneously," Abu Iyad said, adding: "Whatever option they choose, I can tell them as of now that they will never be able to destroy the Palestinian revolution. They tried it in Jordan, and they found out that it doesn't work."

Commenting on U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's recent statement that new arms shipments had been delivered to the Palestinians in southern Lebanon which might



lead to a resumption of hostilities there, Abu Iyad said: "No new arms have been delivered that can change the situation and the course of history in the south. Haig knows this very well — he has his satellites, and they have told him that no new arms have been delivered. Haig's statement is meant to give Israel justification to invade southern Lebanon or mount various attacks on the south.

"All this talk about arms in the south — the statements that are being made by the Americans and the Israelis — is nothing but part of the prelude to Israeli attacks on the south. It is meant to justify the approaching strikes — no more, no less." Justification of the approaching Israeli attacks was also the purpose of the Israeli and American statements about Palestinian guerilla operations launched across the Jordanian and Egyptian borders, Abu Iyad said.

Israel's threat to attack south Lebanon if those operations continued was "nothing but blackmail," he said. "If we were to let these statements affect us and stop all our operations, we might as well lay down our arms, end the revolution and become like the Arab regimes. "Next, they will say that if there are Palestinian demonstrations in the West Bank they will attack south Lebanon. We will not submit to this kind of blackmail. We are committed to one thing only: a cease-fire and an end to all operations in south Lebanon. Beyond that, we are committed to nothing. Our other operations will continue. We will go on fighting until we get our rights."

to the Syrian-Israeli so-called "missile crisis" were very slim. Eytan thus resumed Israeli threats to strike at the air defence system of the Syrian Arab peace-keeping forces in the Lebanese Beqa'a area. Eytan also affirmed that Israel would not withdraw from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip of Palestine, even if an accord on "Palestinian autonomy" was reached. He also uttered military threats against Jordan.

Tel Aviv's aggressive aspirations have to be linked to the tours of several U.S. leaders in the Middle East. There is talk of U.S. special envoy Philip Habib returning to the region soon. In the past, Zionist acts of aggression have always coincided with these visits. This is because Israel's belligerency rests on heavy U.S. support, as manifested in the "strategic cooperation" pact signed last December.

The Israeli "stormtrooper" philosophy is strongly reminiscent of the U.S. aggression in Vietnam — attempting to crush people into submission using thousands of tons of high explosive. Yasser Arafat has answered this philosophy: "Our pride in the Joint Forces stems from the fact that we are not only defending Lebanon and the Palestinian Revolution; we are defending the entire Arab nation from the Ocean to the Gulf. This Arab nation should realise that the only truth is this rifle. They annexed the Golan and before that Jerusalem, and what was the result? The Joint Forces alone knew how to confront this enemy. When Gur was asked why during the eight days why he did not enter Tyre and Sidon, he replied: "What can I do when I have before me people who have decided to face death?"

HUNGARY ACCORDS P.L.O. FULL RECOGNITION

On February 4, Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and Commander-in-Chief of the forces of the Palestinian Revolution concluded a three day official visit to the People's Republic of Hungary.

In Budapest, Arafat held highly important talks with Hungarian officials. At the conclusion of the visit a joint Palestinian-Hungarian communique was released.

"At the invitation of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party and the National Council of the National Popular Front, Arafat headed a PLO delegation on an official visit to the People's Republic of Hungary, from 1-3 February 1982.

"Arafat held discussions with Comrade János Kádár, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party, and with Comrade Gyorgey Lázár, member of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party Political Bureau; Prime Minister István Sarlos, member of the Political Bureau and General Secretary of the National Council of the National Popular Front; Andras Gyenes, Secretary of the Central Council of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party; Frigyes Buja, member of the Central Committee of the Party and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

"The Palestinian delegation which participated in the talks included Abdel Muhsin Abu Maizar, member and Official Spokesman of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the National Relations Department; Sakhr (Abu Nizar), member of the PLO Central Council and Secretary of the Fateh Revolutionary Council; Col. Muhammad Jihad, member of the Palestinian Higher Military Council; and Abdallah Hijazi, the PLO representative in Budapest.

"During the discussions, which took place in a friendly and warm atmosphere in which prevailed a spirit of mutual solidarity, both parties surveyed the international situation and



Chairman Arafat with Janos Kádár

referred to the U.S. administration's escalation of its policy which threatens world peace and is hostile to détente.

"Both parties expressed anxiety over the imperialist attempts and Israel's aggressive policy, backed by the U.S., which is in turn responsible for the continuation and increase of tension in the Middle East.

"Both parties noted that extremist circles in the U.S. are trying to impose their influence on the Arab region. They added that the U.S.-Israeli 'strategic cooperation' agreement is directed against the basic interests of the Arab states and represents a direct encouragement of the Israeli authorities to continue their aggressive policy which aims at usurping Arab land, striking at the Palestinian people's resistance movement, and ignoring the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, which have been confirmed by UN resolutions dealing with the Palestine question.

"Both parties condemned the Israeli authorities', annexation of Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, which constituted grave violations of the principles of the UN charter and internationally recognized laws and conventions, and which threaten the independence and sovereignty of the states in the region as well as world peace.

"Both parties firmly stressed their rejection of the policy of separate deals, of the Camp David accords, the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, and the self-rule conspiracy, the aim of which is to consolidate the Israeli occupation and prevent the realization of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people.



With Arab diplomatic corps

"Both parties also affirmed that a just and comprehensive solution of the Middle East crisis requires as a necessary precondition, the realization of a total and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, and the guarantee of the right of the Palestinian Arab people to return to their homeland, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent national state.

"The two parties pointed out that the success of the struggle to abort imperialist plots against the Arab peoples, to put a stop to Israeli aggression and to find a comprehensive and just solution to the Middle East crisis requires the bolstering of solidarity between the Arab states, and of the cohesion between all Arab militant nationalist forces.

"In this context both parties stressed the importance of consolidating the role and activities of the National Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation, and of deepening cooperation and friendship between the Arab peoples and the Socialist bloc.

"Both parties strongly condemned Israel's continuous and repeated attacks and provocations against Lebanon, which gravely threaten the independence and sovereignty of Lebanon and the unity of its land and people.

"Both parties also condemned Israel's continuous aggressive operations against the Palestinian people and the refugee camps in Lebanon. They expressed their total support for the national liberation movements in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, which are struggling to achieve independence, democracy and social progress, and are fighting against racial discrimination and fascism.

"The Hungarian leaders affirmed the sympathy and active solidarity of the Hungarian

people with the just struggle of the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the PLO.

"The Hungarian leaders also expressed their satisfaction with the good and substantial development of their all-round relations of friendship, in a way which serves the interests of both the Hungarian and Palestinian peoples, as well as the democratic and progressive anti-imperialist forces in the world.

"The Hungarian leaders also affirmed the determination of the Hungarian people to continue to support the just cause of the Palestinian people and their struggle to guarantee the achievement of their inalienable national rights.

"On the basis of the exchange of letters and in this spirit of solidarity both parties agreed to raise the status of the PLO office in Budapest to full diplomatic representation.

"In the name of the PLO Executive Committee and of the Palestinian people as a whole, Yasser Arafat expressed his profound gratitude to the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party, and to the Hungarian Government and people, for the assistance they have offered to the struggle of the Palestinian people and the PLO.

"Arafat also said that the friendship and cooperation between the Palestinian and Hungarian peoples are consolidated through the continuation of struggle for the achievement of a just solution to the Palestine cause, which constitutes the core of the Middle East crisis, and for the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region.

"The Palestinian and Hungarian sides stressed the importance of pursuing regular coordination, exchange of opinion and consultations over all problems and questions of joint interest."

AGGRESSION AND EXPANSION INSTEAD OF A SOLUTION

The ill-famed "peace" deal concluded at Camp David between the United States, Israel and the Egyptian regime never aimed to find a just solution for the Palestine problem, and a comprehensive and stable political settlement for the Arab-Israeli and Middle East conflict in general. Its real aim was simply to break any Arab national front and to open the way for a military build-up of the United States in the region. The practical results have been increased Zionist aggression and expansion, with Israel — like Egypt — becoming even more dependent on the United States. And while the United States has managed to make some military inroads, none of the basic political problems and conflict have been tackled, far from being solved; not even for Israel. External and internal military tension and the danger of conflagration have been building up on all fronts over the entire region. For the Palestinians both inside and outside occupied Palestine, as well as for the Lebanese people, the Camp David results were only more murder, blood and terror.

One has to keep this in mind, if one looks at the endless and fruitless U.S.-Israeli-Egyptian talks on Palestinian "autonomy". Ever since the Camp David agreements were pushed through, all these talks have only served to disguise the true character of Camp David and to cover the violent attempts to liquidate the Palestinian question by means of annexation and terror on the ground.

Negotiations, which opened in May 1979, and resumed in September 1981 after a 16 — month freeze, aim at establishing an "autonomous council" for the 1.3 million Palestinian Arabs in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. Virtually deadlocked on this issue from the beginning, the Camp David Partners began a new round of "autonomy" talks last month.

On January 27, U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig returned to the Middle East in his second tour in less than a month, allegedly to breathe life into the stalled negotiations. However, only 2 days later, he returned to Washington empty-handed. The pieces of papers signed in 1978 are now beginning to look frayed around the edges.

Despite the Palestinian population's total rejection of the bogus "autonomy" plan, the U.S. is insisting on keeping just below the surface the process begun over 3 years ago at Camp David.



Sharon: planning more settlements

The parties involved simply agreed to totally ignore the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and to deny the Palestinian people the right to self-determination or any kind of independent political state. Instead, they vaguely agreed that some form of "autonomy" or "self-determination" should be established. This "autonomy" or idea directly goes back to an idea first put forward by Israeli prime minister Begin in 1979.

The "autonomy" plan is an invitation to the Palestinians to accept continued Zionist occupation, thinly-disguised as self-administration. Further, it is meant as the first step towards formal Israeli annexation of the West Bank and Gaza. It aims at eventually making all the indigenous Arab people of Palestine refugees and foreigners in their own land.

By initiating this plan, Israel also attempts to buy time for increasing Jewish immigration and settlement in these areas. This is a continuation of the policy practiced by Zionism since it began its colonisation of Palestine. Also, by delaying the time for the formal decision as to the fate of the Palestinian people under occupation, the Zionists hoped to defuse the reaction of the Arab masses against the consolidation of Zionism in Palestine.

Since 1967, the Zionists have been extending their colonial-settler state over the West Bank and Gaza. They are still building new settlements and destroying the national economy and subordinating it to Israel. Zionist leaders have declared on more than one occasion that they will not withdraw from these territories. It is in this context alone, that we must view the present "autonomy" plot, i.e. as the preliminary step to the official declaration of Zionist annexation.



Zionist colonisers march for "racial purity"

Jabotinsky's Concept of Autonomy

After the Egyptian-Israeli treaty of March 1979, a 22 — point plan, concocted by Begin and company, was adopted by a committee appointed by Begin and interior minister Yosef Burg.

From the very beginning Begin made it clear that the "autonomy" Israel was so graciously offering the Palestinian people, should *not* be valid in any sense for the territory, but only the "inhabitants" of the land. It is worth always to remember, that Begin's idea about autonomy go back to his ideological mentor and "god-father," the Russian Zionist Vladimir Jabotinsky who for his part had an affinity to fascist ideologies. Jabotinsky first proposed the establishment of a Zionist state in Palestine on both banks of the Jordan River. According to these ideas, "autonomy" has a mere "folkish" sense to be applied to the so-called "ethnic minorities", that is the majority of the Arab indigenous population living in the area. It has no real political meaning on the level of national rights and self-determination, administration and statehood.

Therefore, the so-called "autonomous council" offered by the Israeli government would give the Palestinian people, at most, the rights of a municipal council (West German *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*, February 2, 1982), and less than those of a Bantustan administration in South Africa. All basic legislative administrative, planning, financial, economic and security responsibilities would be left with the Israeli occupation, especially concerning the land, the water, the economy, the budget, the military and the police (see box).

It was clear that Begin's plan was aimed at consolidation of the colonisation of the 1967 occupied territories. What was even clearer although tacit and never directly discussed, was that the Palestinian territory occupied in 1948 was not-negotiable. In this plan it is understood that Palestinian Arabs living here are forever colonised; that they will have Israeli citizenship, but not rights. In practice this means that they will continue to be as 3rd — class citizens of a state designed exclusively for Jews. Begin's plan was accepted in essence by all three Camp David conspirators.

The Political Aims

The main political aims behind the "autonomy" conspiracy are:

1 — The Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 would remain under Zionist occupation for a transitional period of 5 years, with the intention of the Israeli government being to annex them eventually whenever the conditions were right for it.

2 — To cause a rift between the Palestinian people and their sole representative the PLO. The Israelis have attempted to do this by creating alternative "representatives" for the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza who could participate in talks over the self-rule plan, and then play a puppet role under Israeli domination.

3 — Through their self-rule schemes, the Israelis would continue to dominate the economy of the occupied territories, which would provide the crisis-ridden Israeli economy with a reserve of cheap Arab labour, help to amend the trade deficit through

a policy of "open bridges" with neighbouring Arab countries and allow expansion of Israeli investment and settlements in the occupied territories.

Tactical Differences

Recently, the Egyptian regime has appeared to hedge on making further concessions to its Zionist ally concerning the Palestinian question. This is apparently due to its intention to try to cushion its present isolation in the Arab world and to appease popular anti-government sentiment within Egypt. Israel wants a limited form of "autonomy" for the area; whereas Egypt claims it is seeking for an agreement that would lead to a Palestinian "self-determination". Israel sees the "self-governing" authority of the Palestinian entity as a council of some 15 members with purely regulatory powers; Egypt wants a legislative body of about 100 members that would be restricted only from voting full independence or declaring war. Israel wants to keep its control over East Jerusalem and deny the Palestinians there the right to vote in West Bank elections; Egypt disagrees.

However, although these differences over the details of the "autonomy" exist, they remain minor and do not constitute the insurmountable obstacle to implementation of the conspiracy. As in the past, Mubarak, Sadat's successor, will use the tactic of appearing to fight the Zionist plans and appearing to achieve patriotic gains. As part of its "assurance" to Egypt, the Reagan administration is preparing to increase U.S. military aid substantially. After being about \$500 million annually for several years, the aid is to be raised to \$900 million in the current budget. This is expected to be raised even further to about \$1.3 billion after recent pleas by Mubarak. (*International Herald Tribune* January 30, 1982.).

Trying to Remove the Stumbling Block of the Palestinian Resistance

The main stumbling block to the achievement of the Camp David conspiracy is the Palestinian Resistance, in the occupied land and outside, mainly in Lebanon. This also prevents Arab reaction from following the capitulationist path towards Zionism.

This is why the Zionists and the United States feel that the implementation of the "autonomy" conspiracy requires the liquidation of the Palestinian Resistance, especially its open existence as an armed organised phenomenon in Lebanon. This would in

their view weaken the resistance of the people, struggling against Israeli occupation, in the West Bank and Gaza.

In addition, they try to give "autonomy" a "Palestinian face". With this in mind the Israelis, supported by the U.S. and Arab reaction, are continually attempting to create an alternative to the PLO, choosing so-called "moderate" elements, who are in reality isolated and rejected by the mass of the people.

On October 4, 1981, the Israeli cabinet approved a new measure that is a significant step in the attempts to impose "autonomy" on the West Bank and Gaza called the "Sharon Plan"; the measure aimed at removing overt Israeli military presence and "democratising" the occupation by setting up a "civil administration". The implementation of this plan began on November 1, when Menahem Milson took up the post of civilian governor of the occupied territories. This plan was exposed immediately as fraudulent, when the Palestinians attempted to exercise their right to free expression. The facade of liberalisation was torn away while the iron fist of Zionist occupation remained clear for all to see.

Simultaneously, the so-called "village leagues" were created. These were thought up by the selfsame Menahem Milson and sponsored by the Zionist authorities. Their purpose was revealed when Mustapha Dureen attempted and failed to head a delegation to the "autonomy" talks. The Zionist supported "village leagues" had been instituted as a means of drawing support away from the pro-PLO patriotic councils and institutions, creating an alternative collaborationist leadership that would be groomed to be used as an Israeli tool in the "autonomy" negotiations.

The mass uprisings in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip have clearly shown that the Palestinian people will not accept alternatives to the PLO.

Failure of Previous Plans

Since the 1967 occupation, attempts have been made to create a common political "solution" from the different Zionist plans for the occupied territories.

The "Allon plan" named after its creator Yigael Allon, Israel's foreign minister from 1974 to 1977. It called for an Israeli strategic border along the Jordan River, with Israel to retain or annex a strip of territory along the river stretching back to the hills of the West Bank. In this territory, Israel would develop extensive rural and urban settlements as well as permanent military installations. The areas in between would be demilitarised and administered by the Arab population.



Haig with Israeli officials discussing collaboration

BEGIN'S "AUTONOMY" SCHEME

Begin's autonomy plan aims to prevent an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza. The Zionist proposals seek to legitimise the military occupation by delegating a token "authority" to collaborationist elements in the occupied territories. This plan prepares for nothing less than annexation.

Begin's concept of "self-rule" includes the following points;

- "Self-rule" would be applied to the Arab inhabitants and not to the Jewish settlers. This also tacitly implies that any kind of "self-rule" would apply only to the Arabs of the 1967-occupied lands.

- The Zionist "security" forces would continue to maintain internal and external security and carry out military exercises in the "autonomous" areas at will.

- It would be impossible for any "self-rule" body to vote measures which would lead to the establishment of a sovereign entity.

- Israel would maintain sweeping powers to supervise transport links, in the "self-administered" areas. Israelis would be able to own land in the "self-rule" region and the right to establish Jewish settlements there would be preserved.

- Until the end of the 5-year "self-rule" transitional period Israel would hold on to the Jordanian state lands, after which there would be bilateral talks.

- Water resources would be under Israeli control, the Arabs having only limited rights to utilise these resources.

- The Israeli security forces would veto all Arab candidates for election to the "self-rule" body in order to prevent PLO influence. Election platforms will be strictly censored.

- The "autonomy" body will not be able to levy customs duties or issue a Palestinian currency.

- The inhabitants of the "self-rule" areas would have to hold either Jordanian or Israeli passports.

- The Zionist state would maintain a strict censorship over publications and education.

- Communications and health would be administered between the "autonomy" body and Israel. The "self-rule" authorities would be forbidden to independently raise taxes or set up telecommunications.

- Postage stamps, currency and import / export licenses would be under Israeli control.

- Land registration would be the responsibility of the Israeli occupation.

With minor variation, Begin's "autonomy" plan fits with the U.S. and Egyptian collaboration stances.

The Camp David partners can try to stall for time searching for collaborators and quislings but in the end they will have to reckon with the desire of the Palestinian people and their sole legitimate representative, the PLO for full independence. There can be no stability in the region unless an independent Palestinian state is set up and the Palestinian people return to their homeland.

The real meaning of "autonomy"



The Galilee Document which was drawn up prior to the October War of 1973 in preparation for the eighth Knesset elections, was part of the Labour coalition programme. It called for supporting Palestinian elements from the municipalities and local councils in the occupied territories who were ready to collaborate.

The "Mapam Settlement plan" regarded the occupied territories in addition to the East Bank of the Jordan River as part of Israel. It supported Israel in the negotiations with Jordan to reach a political settlement based on a bi-national state. Israel would then be ready to negotiate with any Palestinian side ready to recognise both Israel's existence and authority.

The "Peres Plan": Shimon Peres, former defense minister and new leader of the Labour Party, drew up this plan based on the idea of dividing authority rather than the land. The "authority" of the Israeli state being the primary authority, and local authority being secondary.

In December 1980, the Labour Party held its third congress. While its platform is not substantially different from its past positions, the failure of the Camp David treaty to achieve its full goals gave the resolutions particular importance. Their only difference from Begin's proposals were that instead of "autonomy" they envisage a settlement based on open Jordanian — Zionist collaboration and domination over the people and resources of Palestine.

All of these plans, are based to a greater or lesser extent on deliberate disregard of the prevailing reality in the occupied territories. They come nowhere near satisfying the most minimal demands of the Palestinian people. The same applies to the attempt to revive the Camp David "autonomy" talks.

No Way Around the Palestinian People

The Palestinian people have expressed loud and

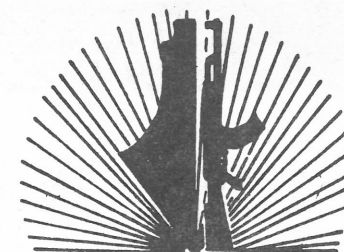
clear their rejection of Camp David. Camp David in no way recognises the PLO or the Palestinian right to self-determination. Through the "autonomy" plan, Camp David attempts to fragment the Palestinian people, offering a "solution" to the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza only. What is offered is even insufficient to alter the existing conditions of occupation. By seeking Arab recognition of the Zionist state without peace, Camp David aims to legitimise and consolidate the Zionist colonisation. It encourages whatever aggression and expansion the Zionist state undertakes in the name of "security". It aims to strengthen the grip of imperialism in the Middle East and increase the oppression and exploitation of Arab people.

After the signing of Camp David, the intensified Zionist settlements and escalated campaigns of brutal repression have tangibly demonstrated that "autonomy" means emptying the occupied territories of the Palestinians to prepare for direct annexation.

Karim Khalaf, mayor of Ramallah said concerning autonomy, "And shall we always have an Israeli commander-in-chief and local Israeli commanders? Yes? So this is not even autonomy. Who will control the bridges (across the Jordan)? Who will give the permits (to go to Jordan)? There is no autonomy if there is another government breathing down one's neck. No mayor will accept your autonomy because it will be the same as saying the occupation will continue forever."

The future of the Camp David "autonomy", as of all the other plans and initiatives attempting to impose a "solution" on the Palestinian people, will be decided by the 4 million Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories and the steadfast rejection of the masses of the Palestinian people under occupation will defeat the "autonomy" plan as they have defeated all Zionist-imperialist plots before.

ARMED RESISTANCE



PALESTINIAN COMMANDOS BATTLE WITH ISRAELI TROOPS IN JORDAN VALLEY

Palestinian commandos on January 30 fought a heroic battle with Israeli forces inside the occupied territories, using hand grenades and machine-guns, destroying a half-track vehicle and an armoured personnel carrier, and killing or injuring a large number of Israeli troops.

Despite the superior number of enemy forces which were rushed to the scene of the fighting, the commando unit managed to break through the Israeli forces which had surrounded them, escape and return safely to base.

The Spokesman of the General Command of the Forces of the Palestinian Revolution issued the following communique about the operation:

No. 3/82:

As a commando group of the martyr Jawad Abu al-Shaar's unit operating in the occupied territories was carrying out its combat duties along the eastern border of Palestine, and on the night of January 28, 1982, after it had planted several land mines on the military roads in the area, it clashed with an enemy mobile patrol between

'Mehola' and the village of Tayasir. The enemy patrol included an armoured personnel carrier and a half-track vehicle. The commandos attacked the Israeli patrol with rocket-propelled grenades, destroying the two vehicles and killing or injuring the soldiers inside them.

The commando group moved out of the area, while enemy reinforcements were brought in, backed with helicopters which dropped flares in an attempt to locate the commandos.

At 9:00 a.m. January 30, 1982, the commandos, using the various weapons in their possession, attacked a number of enemy military targets in the same area, and clashed with the Israeli reinforcements which were trying to encircle them. The enemy suffered heavy casualties.

The battle between the commandos and Israeli troops at the entrances to Tayasir village lasted until the late afternoon, when the commando group succeeded in breaking out of the siege and returned to their base inside the occupied territories.

The enemy forces however took three of our militants prisoner who were badly wounded and had run out of ammunition.

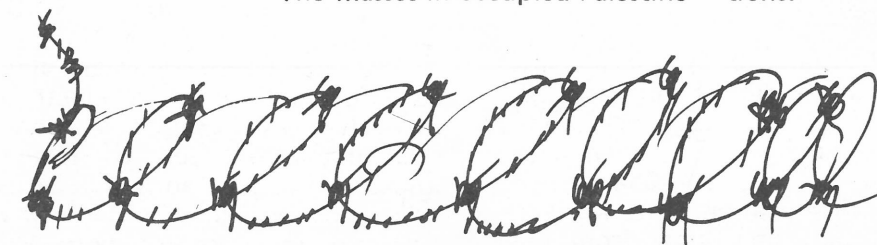
The masses in occupied Palestine

were able to witness the large-scale military campaign of the enemy, in which thousands of troops, helicopters, and warplanes were used with the direct supervision of the highest command, starting with the Chief-of-Staff, the commander of the central sector, and the head of military intelligence. This created confusion and affected the morale of the forces and settlers.

Zionist Comment

Israeli radio's military correspondent said that "there were several points needing clarification, first the division of the commando cell into two groups, the task of the first being to plant mines along the security defence line. This group returned to its base, while the second group's mission was to wage a battle, relying on the element of surprise at a short distance, and then to return quickly to their base. The 'terrorists' continued to infiltrate deep into the country."

The Zionist military spokesman also said: "It seems that the group had prior and complete knowledge of the terrain." He added that "according to the weapons and ammunition found with the commandos and their direction, it seems that they had a planned meeting with 'terrorists' inside to hand them weapons and explosives, and maybe orders for other operations."



WAR AND PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY CALLS FOR TOTAL BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL

On February 5, the UN General Assembly passed its most condemnatory resolution yet against Israel for the Begin government's decision to annex the Golan Heights. The General Assembly was called into emergency session after a similar resolution brought before the Security Council was vetoed by the United States. The resolution passed in the General Assembly calls on member states to cease all military, economic, financial and technological assistance to Israel. Member states were additionally called upon to sever all diplomatic, trade and cultural relations with what was termed in the resolution as "not a peace-loving member state." Finally, the United States was itself condemned for wielding its veto power in the Security Council to shelter Israel from more substantive measures.

There was good reason for the General Assembly to include the United States in its condemnation of Israel. Not only did the U.S. veto the Security Council resolution which would have made sanctions compulsory, but the U.S. delegation resorted to blackmail and threats against states likely to support the majority resolution in the General Assembly. All of Western Europe fell right into line with the U.S. position with the notable exception of Greece which supported the majority. Some 10 days before the vote, the American Ambassador to the UN, Jean Kirkpatrick, flatly stated that the Reagan Administration didn't "believe that annexation has occurred." (See *London Times*, January 22, 1982.) A week later Kirkpatrick was personally threatening Third World delegates that a vote in favor of the resolution would be regarded as "an unfriendly act towards the United States." She added that members of the U.S. Congress would want to know which governments were supporting the resolution. (See *Guardian*, February 2, 1982.) The clear implication, not lost on UN delegates, was that the United States itself would take economic sanctions against the states which supported condemning Israeli aggression.

The February 5 resolution is not the last word on the matter of the Zionist annexation of the Golan. The text of the resolution specifically states that Israel has not carried out any of its obligations required by the UN Charter for membership in the organization. This wording sets the stage for excluding Israel from the United Nations entirely at a future date. True to

form, the United States has threatened to sabotage the entire operations of the UN by withholding its financial commitments if the General Assembly decided on this path.

Arab states actually had the chance to challenge Israel's membership in the General Assembly just before the Golan resolution came up for a vote. Before the vote, there was the normal review of credentials of delegate members and Israel's membership went unchallenged. The next time that credentials come up for review is in September when the General Assembly meets in its regular annual session.

NATIONAL FRONT: EGYPT MUST ABIDE BY U.N. RESOLUTIONS

The Secretary General of the Egyptian National Front, Gen. Sa'deddin al-Shazli, said on February 7 that the UN General Assembly's resolution concerning the Golan, condemned not only Israel, but the Camp David accords as well. In the Front's statement, which was published and addressed to the Arab people of Egypt, Gen. Shazli spoke against the stand of the Egyptian regime which abstained from voting in favour of the resolution which was adopted by an overwhelming majority. The Egyptian stand, Gen. Shazli commented, is clear evidence of the Egyptian regime's attachment to the colonialist and Zionist camp which is hostile to Arab rights.

Israel was able to take its aggressive expansionist step of annexing the Syrian Golan, because it was sure of its control of the Egyptian regime, Gen. Shazli said. The statement added that Israel has succeeded in isolating Egypt from the Arab world and recently from the free world which opposes expansionism and aggression. The statement referred to the unfavourable situation resulting from the Camp David accords and to the great cost which was borne by the Egyptian people.

ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS WARN COUNTRIES SUPPORTING ISRAELI AGGRESSION

The Arab foreign ministers' conference which convened in Tunis to examine the annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights by Israel on February 13, issued a resolution "condemning U.S. policy in the Middle East, in particular its assistance to the Israeli aggressor." The ministers declared that this assistance was harming the vital interests of the Arab nation, and called on the

"American government to halt all kinds of assistance to the Israeli aggressor," in particular, military and financial assistance." This assistance allowed "Israel to continue with its occupation of Arab territories, with its rejection of the national rights of the Palestinian people and its implantation of colonial settlements."

The Arab Foreign ministers also deplored the positions recently taken by Japan and certain European countries concerning Arab rights. They drew "attention to the negative consequences which these positions could have on Arab cooperation with these countries." The conference also decided to "strengthen relations in all political, economic and cultural fields with friendly countries."

The conference set up a ministerial committee to "evaluate the political and economic relations between the Arab states and those countries which support Israel, in order to modify these relations, taking into consideration the positions towards Arab rights."

U.S. WAR PLANES PROVOKE GREECE AND LIBYA

On February 5, 1982, Greek Foreign Minister Ioannis Haralambopoulos conveyed to the U.S. ambassador in Greece a formal protest against "the violation of Greek airspace by American combat aircraft on January 31, 1982." The protest referred to an incident in which two U.S. F-14 "Tomcat" fighter planes, operating from the U.S. aircraft carrier "John F. Kennedy," simulated an attack on a civilian airliner of the "Libyan Airlines" which was on a regular flight from Tripoli to Athens. The Greek government protest followed an earlier protest issued by the Libyan government against the endangering of one of its airliners by the U.S. war — planes.

In Washington, the Pentagon commented on the protests by basically confirming the provocations, claiming that the F-14 planes belonging to the U.S. Sixth Fleet, operating in the Mediterranean, had carried out only "normal" operations. The U.S. provocations come at a time when Greece is about to renegotiate the status of four military bases occupied by the U.S. in Greece. On November 22, Greek Prime Minister Papandreou declared before Parliament, that he proposed a timed U.S. withdrawal from the bases. Before this, operations from these bases would be halted, if they harmed the interests of Greece and other friendly countries in the region.

KUWAIT: ARAB PARLIAMENTARIAN CONDEMN U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE

The Arab Parliamentary Union has condemned the Middle East policy of the United States. In a resolution published at the end of the Union's 12th Congress in Kuwait on February 2, representatives of thirteen Arab parliaments and of the Palestinian National Council rejected any direct or indirect U.S. military presence in the Gulf region. The PLO delegation to the conference was headed by Palestinian National Council President Khaled al-Fahoum. The resolution also called the United States an "accomplice of Israeli aggression against the Arab people". Israel's annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights, which has been accepted by the U.S. was described as an intensification of that aggression.

U.S.S.R: COMPREHENSIVE M.E. SETTLEMENT PREREQUISITE FOR ENDING ISRAEL'S AGGRESSION

The Soviet Union has again urged a comprehensive settlement to the Middle East conflict as a prerequisite for ending Israel's policy of aggression. Chief Soviet delegate Oleg Troyanovski told the UN General Assembly emergency special session on February 1, debating Israel's annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights, that the most important demands to be met were Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, implementation of the rights of the Palestinian people, including its right to found a sovereign state of its own, and security guarantees for all states in the region. Troyanovski condemned U.S. support for Israel and said, "the United States' Middle East policy is part of its plan to gain military superiority in the world, to undermine détente, to foment international tensions and achieve hegemony in international affairs."

WEINBERGER SELLS ARMS... SEEKS R.D.F. BASES...

The United States government continues its militaristic excuse for a foreign policy in the Middle East. While Israel, thanks to the arms lavishly supplied by the U.S., daily expands its threat against the Palestinian people and the Arab world, while Lebanon is tottering on the brink of a new conflagration which may engulf the entire region; while the Iraq-Iranian war is expanding, the United States government continues to pour gunpowder onto the flames and tries to gain short-term profits, from the conflict,

WAR AND PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

in building military bases and securing selfish alliances "against the Soviet threat."

None of the many U.S. Middle East travellers, from Haig and Weinberger to Veliotis, Fairbanks and Habib, is really interested in dealing with the roots of the destabilization, namely Israeli aggression and the unsolved Palestine problem. All they try to do is to gain short-term "strategic" inroads, and to threaten and blackmail Arab national forces and all the forces which are opposed to this aggressive and imperialist policy.

During his latest trip to Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Jordan, U.S. Secretary of Defence Caspar W. Weinberger was mainly interested in selling arms and expanding facilities for the U.S. "Rapid Deployment Forces". In the Saudi capital Riyadh, he commented on the new all-time record military budget of the United States. More than \$4 billion would be earmarked "for projecting U.S. military power into the Middle East" and "for building up and training the Rapid Deployment Force, buying air and sea transports, refurbishing local bases to which the United States might gain access and for sailing the U.S. fleet into the Arabian Sea" (*International Herald Tribune*, February 9, 1982).

He claimed that the United States was doing so not for their own sake, but to "protect the oil for Europe, Israel and Japan" (*ibidem*). He again propagated the lie, which has meanwhile even been withdrawn by the CIA, of the Soviet Union allegedly "becoming an energy-importing nation in the next few years" and intending "to seize the oil fields." Weinberger again waved the false flag of the "Soviet threat" to the Arabs trying to make them forget who occupied their land, prevents peace in the region, and who arms and pays the aggressor.

The United Arab Emirates daily "*Al-Khalij*" on February 9, 1982 commented: "The Americans insult our people, offend the Arab Gulf countries, allocate billions until the end of the century to take over our region and our riches, while sending at the same time their defense secretary to certain countries of the region." And the Abu Dhabi "*Gulf*" wrote on February 9, 1982: "The U.S. is only interested in Arab oil, not in Arab interests. The U.S. threats are directed not only against the Arab Gulf but also against the Arab homeland as a whole."

PERCY: ISRAEL'S "QUESTIONABLE ACTIONS"

The head of the U.S. Foreign Relations Committee, Republican Senator Charles Percy, on

February 8, 1982, gave a major press conference in Washington on his return from a tour through several Middle East countries, including thirteen Arab countries and Israel. Senator Percy declared: "The anxiety of the Arab countries has increased in the course of the last year following the new Israeli settlements in the West Bank, the raids on Beirut and Baghdad, the annexation of the Golan and the provocative overflights of Arab countries."

Senator Percy also admitted that "the failure of the United States to significantly oppose these measures" has spread the impression in the Arab World that the United States supported or at least tolerated these actions. Senator Percy added: "Israel can not expect the United States to continue isolating itself from the world community to defend questionable actions and policies."

REAGAN: ISRAEL RELIABLE U.S. ALLY TO KEEP ITS MILITARY EDGE

While some members of the U.S. administration were busy creating the impression in public, as if the United States did not approve of all the acts of aggression and expansion Israel is indulging in and which are financed and armed by the United States, President Reagan declared in an interview with the West German "*Welt am Sonntag*" that Israel was "America's only reliable ally in the Middle East." This remark came in an interview published by the right-wing paper on February 2, to mark Ronald Reagan's birthday one day earlier. Following public protests, the paper later claimed that the statement allegedly had not been part of the actual interview, but was a quotation "from earlier declarations made by Mr. Reagan"...

However, after the storm in the teacup stirred by rumors about some new U.S. arms sales to Jordan, the U.S. President wrote a personal letter to Israeli Prime Minister Begin on February 10, in which he assured him that "Israel remains the friend and ally of the United States," and that the U.S. government will see to it that the Zionist aggressor state would always keep "its qualitative military edge" over the Arabs.

French Policy in the Middle East:

FROM DOUBLE GAME TO ALIGNMENT WITH ISRAEL

In the French version of *Palestine* magazine (Vol. 7, No. 12, July 1-15, 1981), we raised the question of what the new French government's policy direction would be towards questions related to the Middle East. We answered then that it was still too early to give a definitive evaluation of that policy since the new government in France had only just come to power but that, on the basis of its first actions and declarations, serious fears could be justified that there would be a clear change in French policy on the Middle East, taking large steps closer to Israeli positions.

Quite a long time, nearly nine months, has now passed, so one can now judge the French Socialist government's Middle East policy more surely. The fears we expressed have unfortunately become a certainty: France has sided with Israel. The numerous declarations of good intent by the Foreign Relations Minister, Mr. Cheysson, in any case very confused and contradictory, cannot lead one to think otherwise. Let us consider some of them. In mid-September 1981, when he met P.L.O. Chairman Yasser Arafat, Mr. Cheysson assured him of France's understanding towards the Palestinian cause and, quite rightly, compared the Palestinian people's struggle to the French resistance movement against Nazi occupation during World War II. There was general astonishment; did the French government finally understand what the Palestinians' battle to recover their country, their right, quite simply the right to live, really and fundamentally mean? Eventually not, as Mr. Cheysson, on his return to France, retracted what he had said and explained that his words had been misinterpreted.

Before going to Israel last December, he again attacked the representative character of the P.L.O., which, we may recall, he had alleged was not the Palestinian people's sole legal representative. In an interview with the French Zionist weekly *Tribune Juive* of December 4, 1981, he expressed the view that there could not be a representative of the Palestinians as long as there were no state structures, but that there "could be a representative force and we consider the P.L.O. a representative force." Later he spoke twice of the P.L.O. as the "only representative of the Palestinian fighting force with which one must negotiate", after declaring a month earlier however, that "the P.L.O. Charter which



Mitterrand: "double langage"

expresses the desire for the abolition of the state of Israel does not allow for negotiation". But this is not all, for it seems that Mr. Cheysson likes to talk a lot. At the end of January 1982, in an interview with *The Middle East* magazine, he declared in substance: "Our attitude is this: a Palestinian state, its borders, its relations with its neighbours, all this will be decided by negotiation. At these negotiations, the Palestinians will be represented by the P.L.O."

What will Mr. Cheysson say next? Unless this time he understands fully what the P.L.O. represents, namely the Palestinian people as a whole, the best reply he could have to his endless and futile questions on the representative character of the P.L.O. has been provided by the Palestinian press and the elected Palestinian politicians in the territories under Israeli occupation since 1967. If he hoped to impose a restriction by terming the P.L.O. "the only fighting force", from then on he is required to recognise that all Palestinians wherever they may be are struggling in one way or another with the means at their disposal, and that virtually all of them do so as part of the P.L.O. or in direct contact with it. Let us examine the reactions in the Palestinian press of the West Bank and Gaza or expressed by the Palestinian mayors in these regions, like Mayor Bassam al-Shak'a of Nablus. He strongly criticised "President Mitterrand's bias in favour of Israel" and added, "We are faced with a vacillating policy which, among other things, is expressed by Mr. Cheysson's about-turn which can only strengthen Israel's expansionist and aggressive tendencies against the Arab countries and the Palestinians in general." The Palestinian dailies *Al-Shaab* and *Al-Fajr* expressed the same opinion. The former wrote that "Paris is mistaken if it thinks



it can keep the friendship of the Arabs while ignoring the Palestinian people's rights. We demand a clear attitude from it towards our problem. If Paris refuses this, the Arab countries should punish the Socialist regime for its positions." *Al-Fajr* denounced "France's hesitant and floating policy on the Middle East crisis". It also wrote that "French policy, by taking one step backwards, comprises great dangers, since it serves neither the interest of France, nor that of Europe in our region."

Dangerous steps Backwards

"Double-talk", "hesitant and floating policy", "demand for a clear attitude", "step backwards", "about-turn", nothing could better describe French policy on the Middle East. One of the best examples of this floating, or one could say hazy, policy was in the speech President Mitterrand gave during his visit to Algeria on December 10, 1981. On the Middle East, Mr. Mitterrand said: "Two peoples, two histories of constant confrontation; love for the same land; so much blood and so many weapons ... France's position is simple: We want a state of right to be created. International recognition by the U.N. should entail the means and the guarantee of existence. No people should be denied a homeland. When one has a homeland, one builds there the institutional structures of one's choice. Let this mutual right be recognised! Let the peoples live and have self-determination! ... How did you find it — living deprived of a country? How can one live without a link with one's ancestors, without being assured of being able to work on a structure of which your sons, after you, will be the artisans." The first comment required on this statement is to ask why Mr. Mitterrand did not consider it useful to name these "two peoples". When he dealt with the problems of Africa in the first part of his speech, he mentioned Namibia, Chad and the Western Sahara by name. If one did not know Mr. Mitterrand and his Zionist sympathies well, one could believe that most of the solutions he expressed here should be applied to the Palestinian people's situation, but since he has, on many occasions, used arguments of this kind to justify the Israeli attitude, we have a right to ask some questions. Why this vagueness? The blood and tears to which he has referred have always flowed from the same side. They are Palestinian blood and tears. "No people should be denied a homeland" he added, but who are the people who at this moment, and for more than 30 years, have been denied their homeland, if not the Palestinian people? Who denied it to them if not Israel? Who prevents this "mutual right" from being recognised? Who denies the other the right to life and self-determination, if not Israel with regard to the Palestinians? And who is living "deprived of a country, without a link with one's ancestors"? The reply is unfortunately still the same? the Palestinian people. And who is responsible? Zionism.

PLO REPRESENTATIVE: MITTERAND'S VISIT TO ISRAEL INOPPORTUNE

The PLO representative in France, Ibrahim Souss, on February 3 described President François Mitterrand's planned visit to Israel next month as inopportune. He was speaking at a press conference held in the foreign journalists' union headquarters in Paris.

Souss said that the visit provided encouragement to Israel to "continue its aggressive, expansionist and racist activities against the Arab people as a whole and the Palestinian people in particular." Souss also stated that "it is incorrect to profess that a settlement in the Middle East is impossible to attain except by way of a policy or strategy that places the aggressor and the victim on the same level."

Souss went on to stress that "Israel, as events have borne out, is an expansionist, racist, settler state which does not desire peace. It would therefore be wrong to suppose that through mere negotiations it would be possible to change its intransigence..." He said that the French President will not succeed where others had failed to induce Israel's rulers to relinquish their expansionist designs.

Rescuing the U.S. in Sinai

If the French government merely contented itself with making statements, albeit contradictory and confused, there could still be some leeway in interpreting them. Statements are made for that reason, they can be retracted, corrected or even given a different meaning from what they had originally. But the French government has been obliged on several occasions to proceed to actions. Statements can be transitory, but actions, in politics, remain what count more. When it had to act concretely, the French government did not hesitate, and from the apparently hesitant and floating policy of its statements, it moved to a very clear policy of alignment with Israeli positions. In turn, the decision to abandon the principles established by the Venice conference of which France was the main architect, and then for France to participate in the "Sinai multinational force", cannot be interpreted otherwise, than as approval, even sanctification, by France of the Camp David accords.

As a matter of fact, it was the Mitterrand government who rescued the "faltering U.S. efforts" (Jim Hoagland in the *"International Herald Tribune"*, October 21, 1981) to set up a "multinational" force covering the de facto U.S. occupation of the Sinai peninsula following the Israeli withdrawal due in

April 1982. In October 1981, President Mitterrand declared his readiness to contribute troops to that force, a move that "marked a striking reversal" (Hoagland) of the French position and broke the international isolation of the U.S.-Sadat-Israeli Sinai deal.

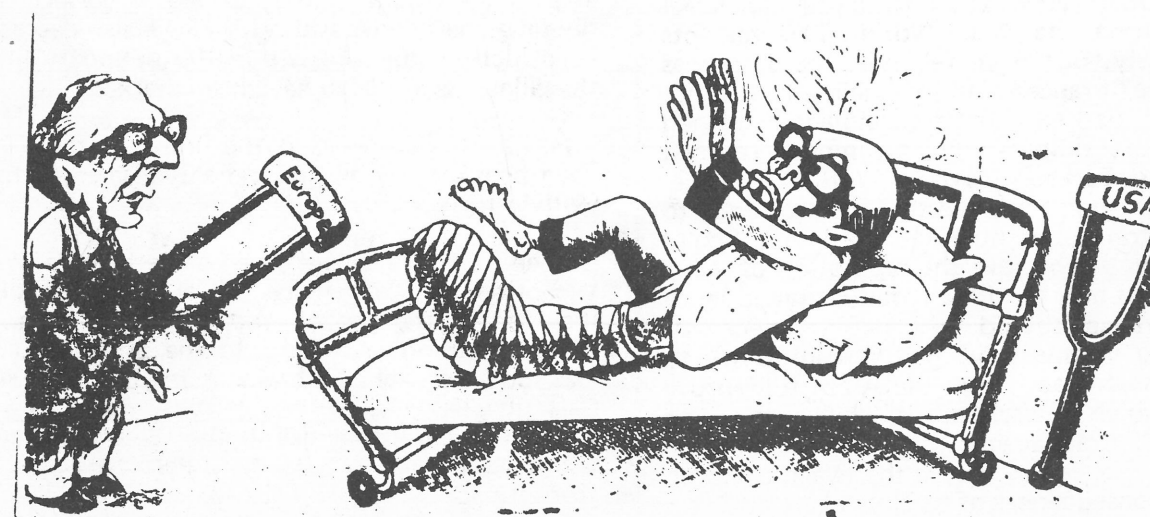
The whole world has more or less recognised the bankruptcy of the Camp David accords. Only France and a few other countries continue to refer to them on the illusory pretext that they have contributed to bringing peace to the region. But what peace and for whom? Those most concerned, the Palestinian people, are still waiting. On the contrary, since the signing of these accords, they have received more bombs and shells than ever before which have sown horror among the people living in Lebanon. In the occupied territories, strikes and demonstrations become more and more numerous and broad because they are the only means the Palestinians have, to make themselves heard and say that they reject the Israeli occupation in any form. They claim their freedom and self-determination, but their own and not that which Egyptians, Israelis and Americans want to impose on them under the Camp David accords. During his visit to Israel, or rather to Jerusalem as he likes to say repeatedly, thus sanctifying the Israeli annexation of Jerusalem, Mr. Cheysson doubtless noticed this. In fact, during his stay strikes and demonstrations increased in the West Bank and Gaza, and were violently suppressed as usual by the Israeli occupation forces. Never mind, let Camp David settle that, let Israel do what it wants, this is the French government's doctrine. It was also expressed when Israel annexed the Syrian territory of the Golan Heights. France "regretted" and "condemned" as it had already done with the bombing of Tammuz and Beirut, but in the Security Council vote demanding that sanctions at last be taken against the Zionist state, it abstained, which in fact was equivalent to a vote against. By refusing to go further than a simple verbal condemnation of principle and impose sanctions on Israel, France and other Western states in the



Cheysson with Shamir in Jerusalem

Security Council, even if they did not follow the extremist United States line, bear a huge part of the responsibility for the war situation prevailing in the Middle East as a result of the Israeli attitude. Why should Israel give up this policy of aggression since it meets no obstacle in its path? After Tammuz, Beirut and Golan, to mention only the latest events since the Socialist Party came to power in France, what will happen? Does it require the annexation of the West Bank and the invasion and occupation of south Lebanon for Mr. Mitterrand to see at last what the real nature of Zionism is? Or would he state again that "his Israeli friends are disappointing him"? It can never be stressed enough that, as long as no real sanction is taken against the Zionist state, it will go on acting as it pleases. One can no longer justify, as Mr. Mitterrand constantly does, the existence of Israel because of its recognition by the U.N. and allow that state, with its usual contempt and arrogance, to reject the decisions on it taken by the same U.N. because of its ceaseless violations of international law.

France not only failed to vote for sanctions against Israel, it is also preparing for its President to make an official visit to Israel, the first by a French President, and at a time when the Zionist state has taken one of its gravest decisions in terms of international law, the annexation of territory seized by force. The trip has been slightly delayed, but at such a level does this



really mean anything? Absolutely nothing, since the very principle of the trip has never been considered for cancellation at any time. The trip can only be seen by Begin as an encouragement of his policy of terrorism and expansionism. The Israeli reservist General M. Peled expressed this eloquently in an interview with the French daily *Le Quotidien de Paris*. He regretted this visit as an "ill-considered initiative" which "risks encouraging Begin purely and simply to annex the West Bank, after the withdrawal from Sinai next April." He concluded that "this trip will look like condoning the policy of annexation." General Peled cannot be accused of being unaware of Israeli policy.

Arms for the Aggressor

The true character of French Middle East policy became clear when, at the end of Cheysson's visit to Israel in early December, Radio Israel announced that negotiations were expected to take place soon on the resumption of French arms supplies to Israel. Indeed, France has been Israel's most important arms supplier until 1967, thus paving the way for Israel's war of conquest in June 1967. In 1968 however, President de Gaulle declared an arms embargo after Israel had used French-built helicopters in an attack of Beirut airport. Now, just about one week after the French stated readiness to supply arms for the Israeli aggressor, Israel declared the annexation of the Golan. And no day passes without the Israeli militarists expanding their military threats against the Palestinian and Lebanese people.

"The arms industry is apparently to play the role of the obstetrician in France's future Middle East policy," the West German Hannover daily *"Neue Presse"* commented on December 9, 1981 on Cheysson's arrangements in Israel.

Conclusion

The French Socialist government's consistent argument of saying that friendly relations must be established with all the parties present in the Middle East and that France will thus be a valid intermediary for creating better conditions to restore peace in the region is a totally false one. France has tried to use it to play a double game, to draw closer to Israel without alienating the Arab World. This restricts them enormously. But from the start the game was distorted, since France did not maintain a strict neutrality as it had so often proclaimed; it aligned itself, purely and simply, with the most extremist Israeli positions. To keep the Arab World's patience, France tried, through some reassuring statements, to prove the contrary, but now the mask has finally fallen away. The Arabs have the reputation of being extremely patient but, as with anybody, that patience has limits. France should know that it cannot continue acting in this way, that it cannot try to secure fabulous contracts from the Arabs to improve its economy, which it sorely needs, while at the same time playing off Israel against them. One cannot win at both tables. France has chosen the Israeli camp, so let it bear the consequences of its choice.

ZIONISM IN PRACTICE

AL-FAJR DISCLOSES MORE ISRAELI LAND - GRABBING

The Jerusalem daily *al-Fajr* published a report on February 1 on the new Israeli plan to seize large areas of land in the central region of the West Bank, some of which will be allocated for the construction of new settlements.

Al-Fajr disclosed that the military administration in the West Bank has prepared a new map on the organization of expropriated land in the entire central region of the West Bank, stretching from the village of 'Ain Bir near Ramallah to the village of Beit Fajr near Bethlehem. This Zionist project will include all the villages of the abovementioned areas and those of the Jerusalem area. The plan also calls for the construction of new roads in the central region, some of which will be 50 metres wide, linking the Romaima area with Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Hebron.

The report also mentioned that several locations east and north-east of Bethlehem and Beit Sahour have been designated for the construction of new settlements. The land of al-Duheisha refugee camp and the area between Bateer and Housan and the land near the settlements of Efrat, Tekoa, Lod La'am, Kfar Etzion and Elazer have also been set aside for the same purpose.

The land lying outside the area of this new "organizational map" has been designated as agricultural land upon which construction is limited to one structure not exceeding 150 m², regardless of the area of the land whose minimum surface is one dunum. The Zionist authorities have also decreed that construction must lie within the boundary limits of the village itself which have been marked.

Al-Fajr continued that the limits of these villages have been shrunk and now make up a small fraction of their former area.

The Ta'amora villages, east of Bethlehem, with the exception of the village of al-'Obeida, were not included in the project and are to be added later. Their exclusion, according to the project's director, was mere oversight that will be rectified, *al-Fajr* said.

The Israeli authorities in the West Bank stopped issuing construction permits to Palestinians as of last August.

NEW TERROR APPARATUS

Imperialism's support to the Zionist entity has been revealed in many ways, but none so clearly as within the armaments industry. Imperialism's goal to prepare a beach head in the Middle East, by naked aggression if necessary, was aided by the strategy of building up a military industrial complex in Israel.

This strategy continues. On February 4, a spokesman for the Israeli defence ministry said that two American companies, General Dynamic and McDonnell Douglas, would be participating in the production of the latest addition to the Zionist war machine — the Lavi combat aircraft. The Pratt and Whitney engines which will propel the new aircraft will be built at the turbo-jet factories in Beit Shemesh near Jerusalem which were supplied to the Israeli government by the French industrialist Joseph Sidlowsky.

International imperialist support initially provided the force required to colonise Palestine and to subjugate the indigenous Arab population. Later it continued to bolster the Zionist economy which was heavily dependent on military force for its survival. This again stresses the indispensability of cooperation between the revolutionary and progressive forces on a world scale. Only by strengthening international solidarity can the struggle of the anti-imperialist forces be victorious.

16 NEW SETTLEMENTS FOR THE WEST BANK AND GOLAN,

The Israeli occupation authorities plan to establish 16 new colonial settlements in the occupied West Bank and Golan Heights in the coming few weeks, according to reports from the occupied territories.

The Israeli army magazine on February 2, published a map delineating the positions and names of several of these settlements which will be set up on the hills overlooking the Jordan Valley. The alleged purpose of these settlements will be to 'defend' this area. These settlements, which will be called 'Mahaz' meaning 'strongholds', differ from others in that they will be financed by the Israeli War Ministry and will be inhabited by Israeli reserve soldiers engaged in higher farming. This concept was elaborated by the late War Minister, Moshe Dayan, who saw these hills as a defence line for the Zionist entity's eastern front.

The British *Guardian* (February 4) reports that Israeli defence minister Sharon has already established the first seven of 14 Nahal para-military outposts. The military posts, as well as two more planned for the recently annexed Golan Heights, will eventually be transformed into civilian settlements.

Meanwhile, the Israeli daily *Haaretz* on February 1 reported that 1,000 dunums of land in Tallat al-Radar belonging to villagers of Beit Surik near Ramallah, which the authorities had seized earlier, will be used for building a luxury residential quarter for Zionist

settlers. The paper said that the land is owned by Arab villagers from Beit Surik and that the authorities had declared it a military zone and banned access to it.

The occupation authorities have confiscated a further 1,500 dunums in the same village over the past two weeks, expelled the land's owners, and beat up the wife of Abed Khalil when she refused to leave the land. The woman is still recovering in bed from the beating.

A group of Zionist settlers, supported by the Israeli occupation authorities, on February 2 confiscated 500 dunums of land near Jericho in the occupied West Bank.

The Zionist settlers have already started working on the land in preparation for cultivating it and establishing a colony.

Since the beginning of the year, more than 2,000 acres have been enclosed or expropriated under a variety of pretexts — "security", road-building and expanding Jewish settlements. There are now a total of 80 exclusive Jewish settlements on the West Bank with a population of about 23,000.

MOVES TO JUDAIZE HEBRON REGION

The Israeli authorities are planning to link several villages in the Hebron region to the Israeli water system, as a step towards tying these villages economically to the civil administration, according to reports from occupied Palestine.

The same sources also confirmed that the Israeli administration is planning to form village councils in Deir al 'Asal and al Koum, which would serve the interests of the Hebron village league.

The reports added that the Hebron "village league" had escalated its harassment of Palestinian villagers in Deir al 'Asal al Tahta, where armed thugs affiliated to the league erected checkpoints, and searched cars and identity papers.

ZIONIST GANGS BOMB PALESTINIAN HOUSE

A gang of Zionist settlers on the night of February 3, lobbed a hand grenade at the house of Kayed Said Da'neh and his sister, smashing the main entrance to the house and some of the windows. This was the latest of a series of provocations against Da'neh, to force him to leave his home and land to the settlers of Kiryat Arb'a. The house lies at the edge of the this colonial settlement.

OCCUPATION

PALESTINIAN JAILED FOR REFUSING TO COLLABORATE WITH ISRAELI AUTHORITIES

On February 10, the Israeli military court in Lydd sentenced the Palestinian citizen Farid Said Farid to two years in prison for membership in Fateh while he was studying medicine in Italy.

During his trial, Farid plead innocent to all the fabricated charges brought against him, and accused the Israeli authorities of taking revenge against him for having refused to collaborate with Israeli intelligence.

The Israeli authorities detained Farid last summer when he was visiting his family in Haifa. He was tortured during his detention.

The same court sentenced the Palestinian citizen Anwar Muhammad Issa Rabi, from Beit Arian (Ramallah), to 20 years in prison, for affiliation to the Palestinian Revolution and resisting the Israeli occupation.

Another military tribunal sentenced Fayeze Muhammad Mousa Abu Hail from Dora, near Hebron, to three months in prison and fined him 15,000 Shekels, for destroying his identity card.

In Ramallah an Israeli military tribunal extended the period of detention of Muhammad Labadi until Feb 18, claiming they needed more time to interrogate him. February 18 is set as the date for Labadi's trial, although no charges have yet been brought against him.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION: ISRAEL TOP OF THE LIST

The UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva on February 10 strongly criticized Israel for seriously violating international law and human rights.

Thirty-two of the 43 countries represented in the Commission voted in favour of a resolution stating that Israel is not only denying the people in the occupied Arab territories their right to self-determination, but its policy is at the same time a source of continuous and systematic violation of human rights. The Commission emphatically condemned the annexation of Jerusalem, Israel's settlements policy, the terror against the Arab population and the illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the occupied areas. India's representative, B.R. Baghat said: "No sophistry can hide the facts of gross human rights violations on the occupied lands, which is a consequence of Israel's expansionist policy."

DIARY

In a further resolution the Human Rights Commission resolutely condemned Israel's decision to annex the Syrian Golan Heights, declaring it null and void and calling on all UN member states to take coercive measures against Israel in line with a resolution adopted by the General Assembly on February 5.

The Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination and an independent and sovereign state of its own is reiterated in a third resolution. The Palestinian people's future can only be guaranteed with the PLO taking part on an equal footing in all decisions, it says. The document appeals to all states, UN organs and international organizations to continue to support the Palestinian people's struggle led by the PLO.

U.S. TELECAST UNVEILS ISRAELI OPPRESSIVE MEASURES IN WEST BANK

Scorched barren fields, depopulated "ghost" villages, thousands and thousands of destroyed houses. People driven out of their dwellings and into barracks hurriedly constructed in desolate desert areas. People fully despairing of achieving any semblance of justice. This is how the present day of the West Bank has been seen by the cameramen of U.S. ABC television network. A special telecast prepared and shown by them on February 8, has been eloquently titled "Under the Israeli Heel". The authors of the telecast have convincingly shown that the occupation authorities shamelessly oppress and persecute the Palestinians.

What the Israeli occupation authorities do with us is a refined and protracted destruction of a whole people, Sheikh Harb, a physician, one of the participants in the telecast, stated bitterly.

TORTURE IN ZIONIST PRISONS DISCLOSED

The Haifa newspaper *al-Ittihad* on February 2, revealed details of barbaric assaults by the Israeli prison authorities on Palestinian detainees in Asqalan jail.

According to the paper, Israeli guards on the night of December 21, 1981, exploded tear-gas grenades, and fired plastic bullets at the prisoners, as well as spraying water into their cells. Later, collective punishment was taken against the detainees.

The report, which came in the form of a letter smuggled out of the jail, said that the prisoners are

still being prevented from receiving visitors and have had their allowances cut off by the prison authorities.

The prisoners said they had formed a 'resistance committee' last month as a result of the authorities' continued refusal even to consider their complaints about chronic overcrowding, collective punishment, the lack of medical attention for the sick and, the shortage of blankets.

GAZA UNDER THE ZIONIST KNIFE

The Zionists are continuing their "scorched earth" policy in the Sinai. In Rafah, the Arab town to be sliced in two when Israel withdraws to the border drawn by Britain and Turkey in 1906, Israeli bulldozers have started clearing a "security" strip 40 metres wide along the demarcation line. Dozens of houses, shops, factories and orchards are threatened with destruction under the umbrella of the "separate peace" treaty between Israel and Egypt.

Shehadeh Zorub, the Arab mayor of Rafah, had demanded that access to all parts of Rafah should be kept open for the 85,000 residents without barbed wire or barriers. He said: "I and my colleagues denounce the Israeli measures and violations, and call on the authorities concerned to reconsider the whole issue."

The Israeli action in Rafah is part of the Zionist goal to create a "pure" Jewish state without any "foreign elements". A top priority of Zionist policy is to expel as many Palestinians as possible — in this case by laying a swathe of destruction through the Gaza Strip. However, repression and destruction have not been able to stop the national forces of Gaza from organising mass confrontation against the Zionist-Egyptian conspiracy.

LANGER EXPOSES PRACTICES OF RAMALLAH 'VILLAGE LEAGUE'

Israeli lawyer Felicia Langer on February 7, issued a complaint to the Israeli Military Governor of the West Bank concerning the harassment of a Palestinian, Radwan Yassine Ali, by members of the quisling Ramallah "village league".

Langer said that the Israeli military administration was held fully responsible for the results of the practices of those collaborators against Radwan who has been threatened with murder if he does not stop his opposition to them.

Meanwhile, the municipality of Qalqilya and all the national organisations and institutions in the area have called for a total boycott of proposed 'festivities' to be held today by the area's new 'village

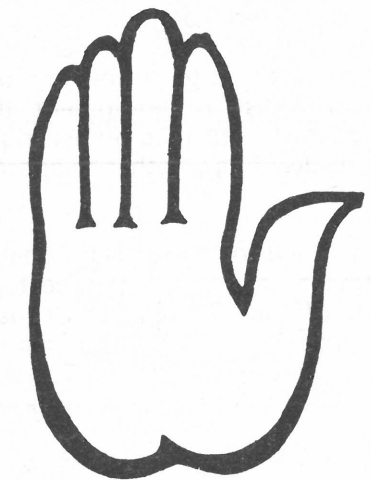
The Israeli military authorities have ordered the Mukhtars and prominent leaders of a number of Qalqilya villages to participate in the festivities or else face the consequences. They have said that failure to

participate would be regarded as a punishable anti-occupation act.

The Israeli authorities have resorted to the establishment of this 'society' after failing to form a 'village league' in the area on account of stiff local opposition.

ISRAELI CP CONDEMNS ZIONIST AGGRESSION

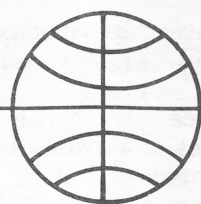
The Communist Party of Israel has strongly condemned the Begin government's policy of aggression. In GDR daily *Neues Deutschland* on February 12, Tawfiq Toubi, deputy General Secretary of the Central Committee, denounced the threats uttered against Syria and Lebanon by Israeli defence minister Ariel Sharon and Chief-of-Staff Raphael Eytan. He said that their warmongering had caused criticism even in pro-government circles. He added that Begin and his supporters could act so impudently only because they could rely on Washington's backing.



للفلسطينيين حقوق إنسانية أيضا

PALESTINIANS
HAVE
HUMAN
RIGHTS
TOO

גם לפליסטינאים זכויות אדם



GUATEMALA GETS ARMS FROM U.S. AND ISRAEL DESPITE BAN

The following are excerpts from a report written by Christopher Dickey, correspondent of the *Washington Post*, about the American military supply to Guatemala:

Barred from U.S. military assistance because of its human rights record, Guatemala's hard-pressed army is keeping itself supplied with vital equipment through loopholes in U.S. laws and the conversion of new American civilian helicopters to military use.

The Reagan administration is aware of Guatemala's attempts to get around congressional reservations and in some cases has given Guatemala some help, as in its decision last spring to remove military trucks and jeeps from a list of equipment that requires the State Department to take human rights into consideration when deciding whether to approve a sale.

Since the 1977 halt in aid to Guatemala, Congress and the State Department have sometimes heatedly debated official and unofficial Guatemalan requests for spare parts for nine Bell military helicopters known as Hueys that were purchased before the cutoff. Sale of the parts has still not been authorised.

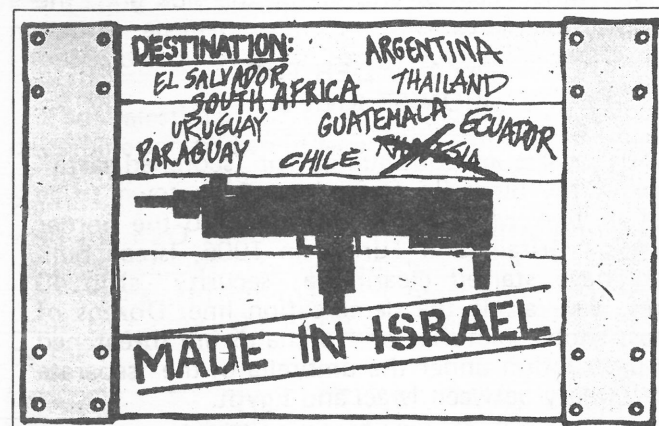
In 1980 and 1981, the Guatemalans spent about 10.5 million dollars on three Bell-212 and six Bell-412 civilian helicopters — the civilian equivalent of the Huey — according to sources involved in the purchases. Those helicopters were bought with Commerce Department approval, but neither Congress nor the State Department had to approve or even be informed of the sales. At least two of the new helicopters are now equipped with 30-calibre machine guns.

The army moves its troops overland in U.S.-made trucks and jeeps. A Bell-212 helicopter with door mounted guns is used to strafe nearby guerrilla positions while a just arrived 412, still with its executive interior, carries troops to the scene of a battle and evacuates the casualties.

Rep. Michael D. Barnes, Democrat of Maryland, says he has the impression that the Reagan administration wants to renew a military relationship with Guatemala because of its fears that the government may need help in fighting guerrillas.

Assassination Increase

The number of political slayings in Guatemala — many of the victims are government opponents — is



up by more than 150 percent in the last year to what some estimates put as high at 500 a month. Although government officials denounce reports that killings of political opponents are orchestrated in an annex of the presidential palace, some Guatemalan military officers concede that civilians, usually peasants, and Indians, who stand between them and the guerrillas are often considered expendable.

The Guatemalan government insists that it can survive by its own wits and with its own resources. But at the same time the high command believes that the only way to fight the guerrillas is with massive troop concentrations. Senior officers say that the army must be increased to about 100,000 men from its present level of perhaps 22,000. To do that would require either more money than Guatemala's ailing economy can provide or military aid from elsewhere.

Israel has taken up some of the slack, supplying the Galil automatic rifles that are now standard issue for combat troops, as well as cartridge belts, helmets and as many as nine highly mobile Arava transport planes equipped with gun pods. The Israelis also recently opened a military communications school in Guatemala to train radio technicians, and there have been reports of Israeli advisors there as well.

U.S. DEVELOPS EIGHT NEW TYPES OF NUCLEAR WARHEADS

The Pentagon and the U.S. energy authorities are developing eight new types of nuclear warheads. At least six of them are planned to be developed in Europe. The Centre for Defence Information in Washington, headed by retired Admiral Gene la Rocque, said in the latest edition of the *Defence Monitor* in January:

"New warheads are being developed for Pershing-2 and Cruise missiles which are to be deployed in

ANGOLA MARKS 21ST ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION STRUGGLE

Meetings and demonstrations took place in Angola on February 4 to mark the 21st anniversary of the beginning of the armed liberation struggle.

Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, president of the MPLA party of Angola, reaffirmed his people's determination to defend the country's sovereignty and independence. The president, speaking in Lubango to thousands of inhabitants of Huila province and refugees from neighbouring Cunene province, said that it was necessary to repel all attacks of imperialism and especially of the South African racist regime.

The Angolan president called for intensified efforts to repulse Pretoria's racist troops which were occupying parts of Cunene province. This required strengthening the armed forces and defence capability and increasing vigilance, he said.

Jose Eduardo Des Santos thanked all peace-loving peoples for their solidarity and aid in wake of the South African invasion. He assured the Namibian people of his country's full political, ideological and material support. He criticized manoeuvres to delay Namibia's independence.

Thousands of people gathered in Luanda's working class suburb of Kassenga, where the liberation struggle began on February 4, 1961, with the storming of the military prison, the radio station and the police station. Fourteen years later, on November 11, 1975, the independent People's Republic of Angola was proclaimed.

Europe. From 1983, thousands of medium-range nuclear weapons are to be supplied to all services of the armed forces including the U.S. troops stationed in Western Europe. In the next few years the American armed forces are to receive 17,000 nuclear warheads in addition to the 30,000 already deployed with its troops."

At the end of January, the Centre for Defence Information issued another study which indicates that there are nuclear weapons deployed in at least one hundred military bases in 34 of the fifty U.S. states. With this documentation the body warns the American public against the Reagan administration's superarmament programme.

The nuclear arms bases include twenty airfields of the Strategy Air Command (SAC), nine launching areas for intercontinental Minuteman and Trident missiles and several harbours for nuclear powered submarines carrying missiles. Besides these bases, the Soviet Union, a dozen other bases of the air force, army, and navy exist where nuclear weapons are also stored.

EEC UNEMPLOYED REACH 10 MILLION

The number of unemployed in nine EEC countries (excluding Greece) exceeded 10 million before the end of 1981. According to official statistics, at the end of last year, there were 10.26 million people without work in EEC countries which is 9.2 per cent of all the population of productive age. Last year alone, the army of economically "needless people" increased by more than two million and unemployment thus became the most pressing problem of Western Europe.

Unemployment in Britain has jumped over the three million a mark, the highest since the 1930s. The Department of Employment announced in January that there had been 3.07 million jobless registered that month almost 13,000 more than in December. 12.7 per cent or one-eighth of the working population have lost their jobs.

The General Secretary of the Trade Union Congress called the unemployment rate 'a national catastrophe'. If those who have only temporary work or have not registered themselves as jobless were added, the real figure was four million and not three, he said.

According to EEC statistics the second worst country after Britain is Italy where the number of unemployed reached 2.94 million.

With some two million jobless in January, West Germany recorded the biggest unemployment figure since 1955. The Federal Labour Office announced that the jobless total climbed by 245,900 to 1,949,800 in only one month. In addition, 538,700 people were forced to work short-time at reduced pay in mid-January. Among the jobless are 165,300 workers under 20 years, which means a 61 per cent increase against January 1981. The number of unemployed foreign workers went up by the same rate.

In the Treaty of Rome signed in 1957, the six founding members of the so-called "little Europe" outlined the aims of the Common Market as uninterrupted and steady economic growth, greater stability, rapid increase in living standards in the community, and development of closer relations between the member states.

Despite all the statements from EEC leading representatives and single member-states on the introduction of "effective measures" against unemployment, the pace of its growth, especially since 1976 when "only" 6 million people were without jobs in EEC countries, has reached dramatic dimensions. The unemployment rate has still not reached its peak and the upward trend is continuing.

AMERICA'S NEW VIETNAM

As the liberation struggle in El Salvador rapidly swung in favor of Salvadoran popular forces in the past month, the Reagan administration has been scrambling to mount an American intervention which is taking on staggering dimensions. The historical parallels to the American debacle in Vietnam are obvious and are touted daily in the U.S. press. But the lessons to be drawn from the American defeat in Vietnam have completely escaped the Reagan administration.

Triggering Reagan's plans for a massive American onslaught in the region was a spectacular raid by Salvadoran liberation forces at the beginning of February on the Ilopango military airport, just outside the capital San Salvador. Half of the Salvadoran junta's entire air force was destroyed in the raid including six newly-delivered American UH-1 transport helicopters. Reagan immediately announced an emergency military grant of \$55 million to shore up the dictatorship. New helicopters were on their way to El Salvador within days.

The \$55 million emergency aid is only a drop in the ocean compared to what the Reagan administration now envisions as necessary to bolster the remaining pro-American fascist dictatorships in the region. Reagan is asking Congress for \$129 million in economic and military aid in 1982 for El Salvador alone. The projected 1983 figure is double. On February 14, the *Washington Post* disclosed details of the Reagan administration's plans for destabilizing the whole Central American and Caribbean areas. The CIA was reported to be spending \$19 million on creating a puppet opposition in Nicaragua to overthrow the Sandinista government. Most of the \$19 million would be invested in paramilitary units which would be deployed in neighbouring countries as well. About \$250-300 million is to be allocated to capitalist enterprises throughout Central America and the Caribbean to stop nationalizations of U.S. monopolies. Additionally, military aid to El Salvador and Honduras would be supplemented as needed from discretionary funds available to the President and not subject to Congressional review. More money will be thrown into training Salvadoran troops inside the U.S. as well as in El Salvador itself. Already 1,400 Salvadorans are being trained at two American military bases in North Carolina and Georgia. American intelligence operations in Central America will be stepped up. American

military forces in the Caribbean will be strengthened and will be "ready to act, if necessary." Economic sanctions against Cuba will be reinforced. Finally, the Reagan administration envisions spending millions on a propaganda campaign within the United States to woo public support for the government's total commitment to death squads and the whole counter-revolutionary infrastructure throughout Central America. The *Washington Post* reported that this whole scheme was approved by the National Security Council.

U.S. War Criminal Surfaces to Defend U.S. Complicity in the Salvadoran Bloodbath

The Reagan administration's jingoistic appeals to rally around plans for an American military adventure in Central America are falling on deaf ears even inside the U.S. Congress. The massive slaughter of the Salvadoran civilian population by government troops, trained and supported by U.S. military aides, is just too blatant to disguise. Estimates of the number of innocent civilians massacred by Salvadoran troops in the past two years ranges from 20,000 to 30,000.

At the beginning of February, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Thomas O. Enders was appearing before Congressional committees arguing for increased military aid to El Salvador. His argument was that the human rights situation had improved. According to Enders, only 6,000 innocent civilians had been slaughtered in 1981. However while Enders was making his congressional rounds, the *Washington Post* and other newspapers carried reports of journalist Alma Guillermoprieto who visited the village of Mozote in El Salvador where 1,000 civilians were massacred on December 11 by an elite brigade of the Salvadoran army known as the Atlacatl Brigade. Guillermoprieto wrote of the Atlacatl Brigade in the *Guardian* on January 28: "It has been trained by U.S. military advisors here for rapid deployment and anti-guerrilla offensives." Even the conservative *Time* magazine challenged Enders' assessment of the human rights situation by reporting on February 17: "As many as 1,000 are murdered or disappear each month... most victims of the violence have apparently died at the hands of security forces." On February 10, the Salvadoran Catholic Archdiocese reported that 150



Duarte's murder squads in El Salvador: America's new Vietnam

peasants were assassinated between the 16th and 22nd of January. The Catholic Archdiocese office attributed the blame to "paramilitary groups and the special forces of the government."

Enders was not only remiss in covering up the true extent of the slaughter, but also of the evidence of direct U.S. participation in it. In the middle of February, American television began broadcasting pictures of American officers, accompanying Salvadoran troops in their bloodbath forays, carrying combat weapons. In January, an ex-Salvadoran soldier revealed to journalists in Mexico City that American military advisors participated in torture training sessions where live victims were savagely disfigured and then later murdered. The details of the evidence were too specific to be convincingly discounted by the likes of Enders.

Finally the American press looked into Enders himself as a possible candidate for a war crimes tribunal. On February 12, the *New York Times* reported: "It can fairly be said that Enders — who supervised the American bombing of Cambodia during his more than three years there — did little to move Cambodian civilians out of the way either. What he did do — first as the No. 2 man at the U.S. Embassy and later as the man in charge — was to spend considerable effort trying to discount and discredit reports by journalists in the field... In 1973, Enders ran the daily meetings in Phnom Penh embassy where bombing targets were chosen, using maps too old so as to assure the absence of villages and civilians where the bombs were to fall. ... The 1973 bombing... was some of the heaviest in

history. Of course, thousands of civilians were killed, maimed and turned into refugees. Enders persistently contended that the figures reported by journalists in the field were exaggerated. ... Does it ring familiar? Here is what he says now about Salvadoran peasants: 'No evidence could be found to confirm that government forces systematically massacred civilians. Nor does the number of civilians killed even remotely approach the number being cited in other reports about the incident.' ... American military personnel, acting in secret and using sophisticated communications equipment inside the embassy, played the primary role in coordinating and directing the tactical air strikes flown from Thailand. On Aug. 6, 1973, a week before the U.S. bombing was forced to halt, a B-52 accidentally dropped its 20-ton-plus load on a government-held town, killing nearly 200 and wounding more than 300. It was the worst bombing accident of the war. Most of the victims were civilians. Enders tried to cover up the incident — first by sending an aide to tell the press corps that the death toll was probably only 25, but certainly no more than 65, and then by issuing orders to block reporters from getting to the town, ... They got there anyway."

Turning Point

While the American press and liberal public opinion in the U.S. is being haunted by the spectre of a repeat of the Vietnam era played to the death in Central America, the public outcry has not been enough to prevent the American military escalation from proceeding ahead on schedule. But as in the Vietnam experience the real demise of American policy in Central

America, is being delivered its death blow on the ground. In El Salvador, stepped up American intervention has not meant even a reprieve for the isolated dictatorship's shock troops. Each civilian massacre has only served to swell the ranks of the liberation forces. While government forces have concentrated attacks on guerrilla positions in the border region with Honduras, the Farabundo Marti Liberation Front in the past three months has been able to expand its reach throughout the country. The attack on the Ilopango airport near the capital was a dramatic example of the turning point which was reached already at the turn of the year. Government communications have been continually disrupted and liberation forces control at will much of the road network throughout the country as well as villages and much of the countryside. As we go to press, reports indicate that the Front has liberated a major town in San Vicente province, 40 miles east of the capital. An American escalation can postpone the final showdown, but the cost will be as great for the Reagan administration as was the Vietnam embroglio for previous American administrations.



Salvadoran army troops on patrol in Morazan department

South Africa: With U.S., Zionist and Western Imperialist Support

MAINTAINING WHITE DOMINATION IN BLACK CONTINENT

The liberation struggle in southern Africa intensified in 1981. Nearly fifty military operations were launched by the fighters of the African National Congress (ANC). On December 28, 1981, in an attack against a northern Pretoria police station, a policeman was killed and four wounded. Despite growing police and judicial terror, the ANC is gaining ever more influence among the millions of black people who demand changes in their unbearable conditions.

The front line states which are frequent targets of Pretoria's aggression have further consolidated themselves. More and more young people, men and women, are fighting under the banner of the patriotic People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO's military wing, for the liberation of occupied Namibia.

Despite continuing occupation of Angolan territory, the Angolan People are stepping up their efforts to strengthen state power and the economy. Mozambique has achieved further success in construction and in economy and has

smashed several Pretoria-backed gangs. Despite much pressure from Pretoria and conspiracies of South African and American intelligence services the Zimbabwean government has strengthened the country's independent development and initiated essential social measures.

Uproot Liberation Movements

All the provocations and unprovoked acts of aggression against the peoples of southern Africa are nothing but part of South Africa's coordinated campaign to maintain white domination not only over South Africa but also over the whole of southern and central Africa by every possible means. It is part of the criminal apartheid regime's strategy to destroy the liberation organisations, (the ANC and SWAPO) politically, eliminating their leaders and militants physically wherever they are to be found.

At the end of July, 1981, in Salisbury, racist assassins brutally murdered Joe Gqabi, one of the leaders of the ANC. He was not the only victim of racist terrorism. Abraham Tiro was murdered in Botswana, and twelve leaders fell victim to the Matola massacre in January 1981, not to mention the political prisoners who have been killed in their solitary confinement cells in South Africa and Namibia. They daily ban, banish and detain political and trade union leaders without trial, they have shot down thousands of young people, women and chil-

South African troops:
all-out war against Africa



dren, in the streets of Soweto and other townships.

In Namibia, the situation has developed from bad to worse. Violation and coercion are the order of the day. According to the *Sunday Telegraph* of March 22, 1981, "the number of South African troops and paramilitary police in Namibia is thought to have reached 100,000, apart from locally recruited forces." In addition, the infamous colonial policy of divide and rule has been reactivated, involving the conscription of Namibian youth at gunpoint to shoot and kill their brothers and sisters. The objective is to transform the essential colonial conflict into a civil one. A state of emergency has been in existence throughout the country for nearly a decade. This state of affairs was reinforced by martial law which empowers the army and the police to shoot and kill those Namibians believed or suspected to be SWAPO followers. Furthermore, the racist, colonial governor appointed by the Pretoria regime has been given extraordinary power to rule by decree and has been promulgating a series of illegal and repressive acts.

Puppets and other colonial agents are used to carry out dirty tricks and terrorism against the local population by destroying their livestock, property and harvests. When the local population resist such acts of intimidation, they are forcibly removed to different localities in an attempt to cow them into submission. For the defiant ones, all opportunities for employment are foreclosed.

All-Out War against Africa

Another important ingredient of the apartheid regime's strategy entails the intimidation of the front line states through open acts of aggression, as we are witnessing in Angola, Mozambique, Zambia, Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland. Occupied Namibia is used time and

again as a springboard for military attacks and other acts of aggression against the People's Republic of Angola. For more than a year now the racist regime has continued its attacks on Angola, raiding deeply into its territories, bombing the provinces, killing and wounding hundreds of innocent civilians. Furthermore, the apartheid regime has embarked on an all out invasion of Angola in the hope of overthrowing the MPLA government. In August, 1981, General Lloyd, the South African military commander, announced: "We are preparing ourselves mentally and physically for a more serious war". The Pretoria regime increased its defence budget for 1982 by a staggering 30% to a total of 2,465 million rands. This clearly indicates preparations for an all-out war against Africa in which Reagan and Botha are allies.

Israeli-U.S.-South African Collaboration

In Washington, the lobby organization Trans-Africa has released confidential State Department documents on U.S.-South African relations. A classified U.S. Defence Department document showed that the United States knew South Africa's determination to stop SWAPO from coming to power in an independent Namibia, and has heard of South African Defence Minister Malan's declaration that South Africa is ready to invade Namibia and the neighbouring countries in order to prevent this coming about.

The United States, which is so free with its accusations that the Soviet Union is the source of world aggression and terrorism, has no word to say about the escalating aggression of South Africa against independent neighbouring countries, the South African aid to rebel bandit groups in Mozambique, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Angola, and direct attacks on the front line states. In fact the United States is training mercenaries on its territory to use them against the national liberation movement in

Africa. And South Africa uses these mercenaries in its large-scale actions against the Namibian people and the independent African countries.

As the documents leaked by TransAfrica reveal, the United States and South Africa have a shared objective in southern Africa — to maintain and extend South African and Western influence in the area in the name of anti-Sovietism.

In the eyes of the Reagan administration and its allies, especially Britain, France, Canada and West Germany, South Africa is the Israel of southern Africa, a reliable if sometimes embarrassing ally to be supported at all costs as a bastion of the "free world". Haig, Reagan and Thatcher condemn apartheid in words, but when it comes to arms, oil, components for nuclear weapons or vetoes at the UN, South Africa gets everything she wants, in the same way as Israel.

Human Rights Champions!

While the American and Western European governments say that they are opposed to apartheid, they oppose sanctions against the regime and put forward no other policy to take their place. In the absence of meaningful sanctions, foreign capital continues to be pumped into the South African economy, its nuclear capability is further developed, the range of military equipment available to its armed forces grows, loans flow into the government's coffers and oil flows in for their military and industrial policies.

On November 17, 1981, the General Assembly Decolonisation Committee called on all states, in particular, the USA, Britain, West Germany, France, Japan, Belgium, Israel and Italy to terminate all collaboration with South Africa in all fields. They condemned the collusion of the United States, West Germany and Israel with the apartheid regime in the nuclear field and called on France to refrain from supplying the regime with installations that might enable it to produce nuclear materials. At the same time in violation of several UN resolutions, the bonds between the U.S. administration and Pretoria grew, the collaboration between South Africa and Israel, particularly in the nuclear field, continues.

In January, 1982, the U.S. journal *Nucleonic Week* reported that a consortium of West European companies, which were not named, has sold the South African regime 50 tonnes of enriched uranium, allegedly for the nuclear power plant at Koeberg near Cape Town. The White House spokesman said that the U.S. administration was not too worried by this transaction. Thus the American administration

in fact has given its consent to this transaction, which is at variance with international agreements on nuclear energy and a number of UN resolutions on the South African regime and the armaments embargo on it.

At the beginning of December 1981, a Canadian company was accused of exporting American military equipment to the apartheid regime. Canada is frequently used as place of departure for shipping arms to the racist regime.

The western countries continue to increase their links with South Africa, strengthening its economic base. The continued illegal occupation of Namibia creates opportunities for the depletion of the country's mineral wealth. The transnational corporations expropriate all the super-profits which go to South Africa and its western allies. As Sam Nujoma, Namibia's nationalist leader, pointed out during his talks with the front line states leaders in Mozambique in January: "The West appears more preoccupied with guaranteeing the exploitation of Namibia's mineral wealth than in assuring its real independence."

The close ties and the full support to the terrorist, racist regime are part of the deliberate strategy of the Western powers headed by the United States, to enlarge areas of conflict in southern Africa, and elsewhere with the aim of undermining the independence of states which have opted for socialism, crushing liberation movements which threaten to dislodge reactionary regimes.

Despite its intensified external and internal aggressiveness, the South African racist regime was not able to improve its precarious situation. The United Nations decision to make 1982 an international year of mobilization for sanctions against South Africa, reflects the growing isolation of Pretoria. South African patriots led by the African National Congress do not slacken in their fight to abolish apartheid and establish a South Africa which belongs to all its citizens regardless of their colour.



SOLIDARITY

USSR MOSLEMS PROTEST U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

The Moslems of the Soviet Union resolutely support the protests of the peace-loving public against the U.S.-Israeli conspiracy in the Middle East, says Sheikh Yusufkhan Shakirov, Vice Chairman of the Moslem Board of Central Asia and Kazakhstan. The statement, handed over to the press on February 1, stressed that "the aggressive and brazen activities of the ruling circles of Israel are being carried out with the obvious connivance and encouragement of the U.S. Administration".

"The activities of the Israeli aggressors," the statement of the Moslem leader says, "have not been denounced at all by the United States. Moreover, the U.S. torpedoed the decision taken by the U.N. Security Council against the Israeli annexationist policy and openly voted in support of the invaders."

Sheikh Yusufkhan Shakirov recalls that, having set up military bases in the Middle East and the Arabian Gulf, established 'special relations' with Israel and concluded an agreement on strategic cooperation with it, the United States is trying to carry through its selfish imperialist plans in that area. Its purpose is to continue to plunder the natural and economic resources of the Arab countries and to suppress the will of the Arab people for peace, independence, and progress, and for the liberation of all the Arab lands occupied by the Israeli expansionists.

"Speaking on behalf of the Moslems of the Soviet Union, I strongly denounce the American-Israeli deal in the Middle East and urge the Moslems of the world to protest against the sinister plans of imperialism and Zionism towards the Arab people. Our duty is to prevent the implementation of Israeli policy and to show solidarity with the Arab people in their just struggle for the complete and unconditional evacuation of the occupied lands

and for the ensuring of the right of the long-suffering Palestinian people to the establishment of an independent national state," Sheikh Yusufkhan Shakirov concluded.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE CONFIRMS SUPPORT OF PALESTINIANS' STRUGGLE

Chairman Arafat received a cable from the International Peace Conference which was held in Aden from February 6 to 9, to discuss peace in the Middle East and the threat of the imperialist military build-up.

The cable expressed the conference's gratitude for the support extended to it by Yasser Arafat, and warned of the aggressive imperialist policy which threatens world peace. It also confirmed its stand with the PLO and the just struggle of the Palestinian people, and its absolute rejection of the administrative autonomy scheme and any other plans which ignore the Palestinian people's inalienable rights as recognized by the UN.

At the end of its meeting, the conference condemned the United States' decision to extradite the Palestinian militant Ziad Abu 'Ain to Israel and sent cables to this effect to U.S. President Ronald Reagan and to Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

The cables said that the U.S. decision represents a dangerous violation of international law. It described as false the charges presented by both parties against Abu 'Ain and supported the UN General Assembly resolution condemning the extradition order. The Council finally demanded the return of Abu 'Ain to Jordan, whose nationality he carries.

YUGOSLAVIA, ANGOLA DENOUNCE ISRAEL'S AGGRESSIVE POLICY

A joint Angolan-Yugoslav communiqué on the results of the visit

to the People's Republic of Angola of the delegation of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia led by Federal Secretary of Yugoslavia for Foreign Affairs, Josip Vrhove, was issued on February 1.

Angola and Yugoslavia reaffirmed once again their full support for the struggle waged by the people of Namibia for freedom and independence under the guidance of SWAPO, the sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people.

The two sides denounced Israel's aggressive policy in the Middle East and the continuing occupation of Arab lands. They pointed out that durable and fair peace in the region can be attained only through termination of Israel's aggression and recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and their right to establish an independent state of their own under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine. The People's Republic of Angola and Yugoslavia declared it was necessary that the international community should take vigorous steps in order to put an end to Israel's aggressive actions in the Middle East.

CYPRUS EDUCATION MINISTRY TO ARRANGE SPECIAL COURSE ON THE PALESTINE CAUSE

The Cypriot Ministry of Education has recently notified all schools in Cyprus to allot the first period of classes on November 30 of every year to explain the Palestine cause.

The decision comes as an affirmation of the Cypriot government's solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people, and as part of the festivities which are held annually in Cyprus on the Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people.

SOLIDARITY

CZECH, FINNISH SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN DETAINEES

Students and solidarity organisations in Czechoslovakia and Finland at the end of January expressed their support for Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails.

In Prague, a petition signed by numerous professors and students was sent to various humanitarian organisations and to the Secretary General of the UN denouncing the abominable treatment of Palestinian prisoners by the Israeli occupation authorities.

Meanwhile in Helsinki, the Committee for Solidarity with the Palestinian people issued a statement demanding that the Israeli authorities cease their oppression of Palestinian detainees.

Both the petition and the Finnish statement noted in particular the death of four Palestinian prisoners as a result of Israeli torture in September and October 1981.

WIDF REAFFIRMS SUPPORT OF ARAB PEOPLES' STRUGGLE

The Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF) has reaffirmed its full support for the struggle of the Arab peoples for national independence, democracy, social progress and peace.

In a statement on a week of International Solidarity with the Arab Peoples (24 to 31 January), WIDF, which is headquartered in Berlin, calls on all women's organisations and peace-loving forces all over the world to protest against the annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights by Israel and against its aggressive and expansionist policy in the occupied West Bank and in the Gaza Strip.

The WIDF also condemned the military and political support of the U.S. and other imperialist countries which enables Israel to continue its aggressive policy against the Arab peoples.

ART EXHIBITION IN GDR IN SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

An Art Exhibition under the slogan "Support for Palestine" was organized in Potsdam, German Democratic Republic, during the first week of February. Five German artists exhibited around one hundred paintings and photographs depicting the pain and aspirations of the Palestinian people, as well as Israeli repression and aggression.

SENEGALESE PRESIDENT REITERATES SUPPORT FOR PALESTINE CAUSE

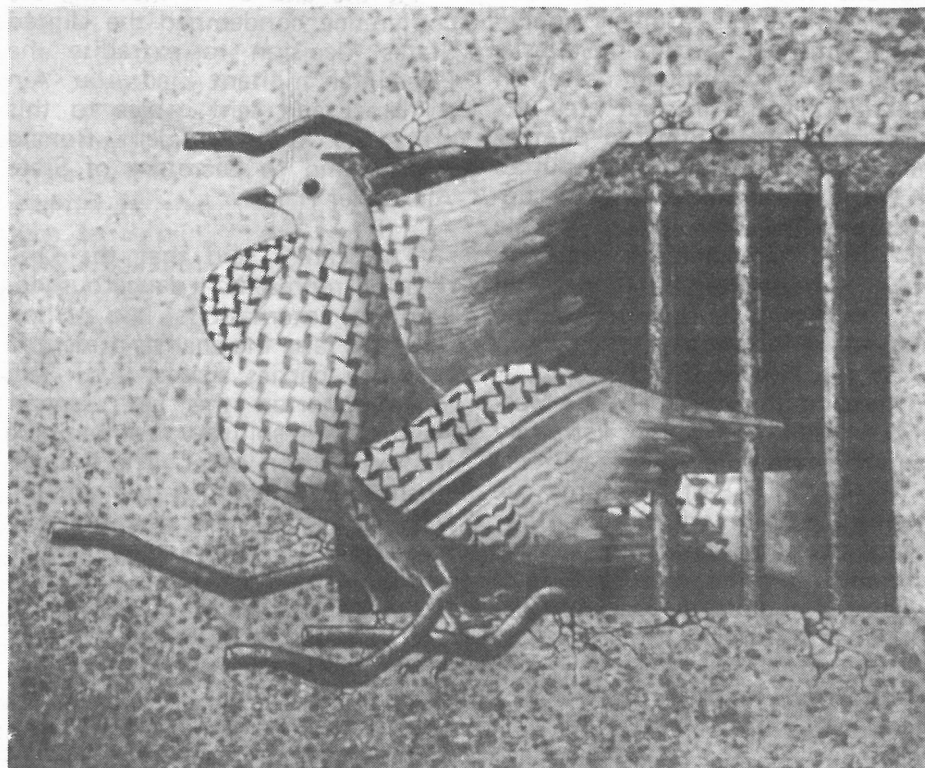
In his opening speech on February 4, at the meeting of the General Council of the African Socialist Parties Organization in *Dakar*, the Senegalese President Abdo Diouf expressed the support of his party, people and Government for the heroic struggle waged by the Palestinian people, under the PLO's leadership.

He called for closer ties with the Palestinian people and for the foiling of Israel's current efforts to reestablish diplomatic relations with African countries.

RALLY IN SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIANS IN MOSCOW

A rally in solidarity with the Palestinian people and their just struggle was held in Moscow on February 9. The rally, which was sponsored by the Soviet Vanguard club was attended by a large number of prominent Soviet figures and members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps.

Speakers at the rally called for further support of the Palestinian people's struggle under PLO leadership, and condemned U.S.-backed aggressive Israeli policies which are aimed against the national aspirations of the Palestinian people to return, self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state as a basis for a just peace in the Middle East.



Palestinian Art Exhibition:

Michael Najjar

"RETURNING BACK TO THE ROOTS"

On February 5, 1982, the General Union of Palestinian Writers and Artists held an exhibition of the works of painter and calligrapher Michael Najjar, in Dar Al-Karamah gallery near the Arab University of Beirut. The exhibition was opened by the Head of the information and cultural Department of the PLO, Yasser Abd Rabbo. Abd Rabbo in his opening speech said: "A revolutionary artist belongs to the Palestinian people and its national movement."

The 36 oil and watercolour tableaux revealed high artistic talent. The artist had attained a high aesthetic level but has at the same time focussed on simplicity.

The letters of Arabic script were the basic motifs used extensively throughout his work. Najjar says this is why the exhibition is called "Returning to the Roots" — the Arabic letter is the root. Najjar has combined the ancient Arab heritage with the contemporary Palestinian Revolution: In his work he uses the pattern of the Koffiyah Galili — the symbol of the Palestinian feday.

At a press conference on the opening day *Palestine* put the following questions to the artist:

— *Why did you devote yourself to the Arabic script motif in your calligraphy?*

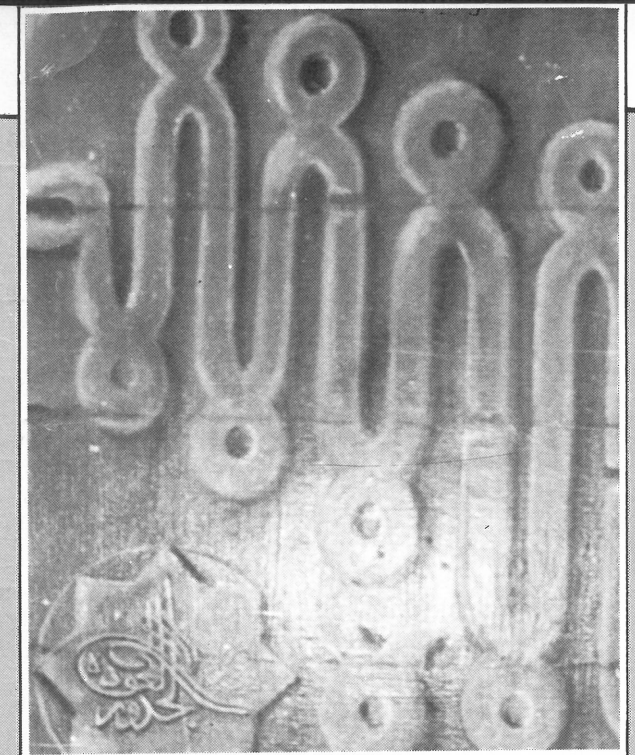
— There is a very simple explanation: This calligraphy has its origin in my homeland. This pattern has been influenced by reminiscences of Palestine and it is strongly suggestive of the Palestinian cultural and emotional make-up. It is part of me and I find it very beautiful.

— *What is the connection between your work and the name of the exhibition "Returning to the Roots."*

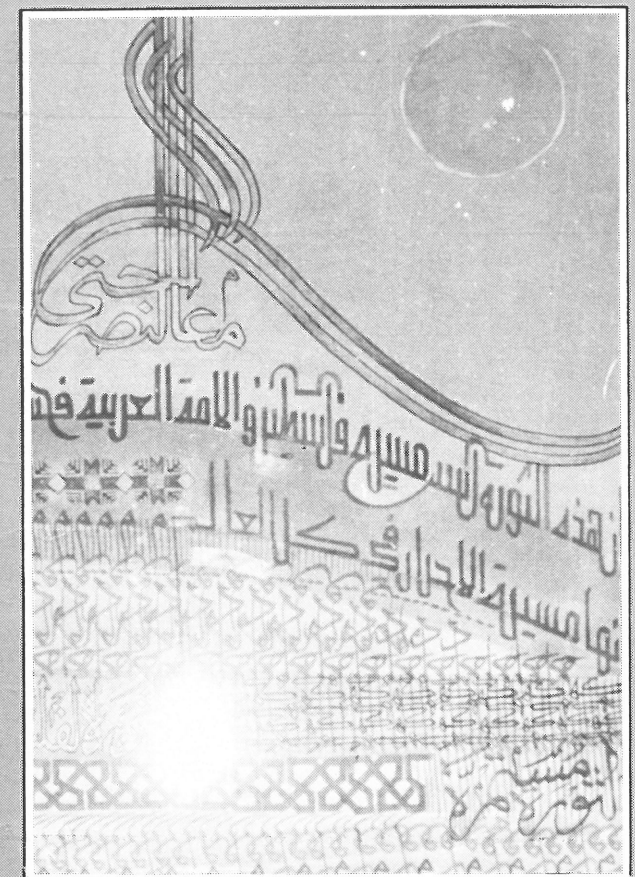
— This art is a return to the Palestinian and Arab origins. I have concentrated on the ancient decorations of the old mosques and relics which are beautifully adorned with Arabic script. An example is the work of Al-Wasati during the 13th century. It is significant that Al-Wasati is the initiator of the Arab Plastic Arts movement although he was not aware of the third dimension — "depth."

— *What is the relation between your art and the Palestinian Revolution?*

— Arabic script is a cultural heritage which affects our daily life. It is imprinted on our minds and character. This strengthens our stead-

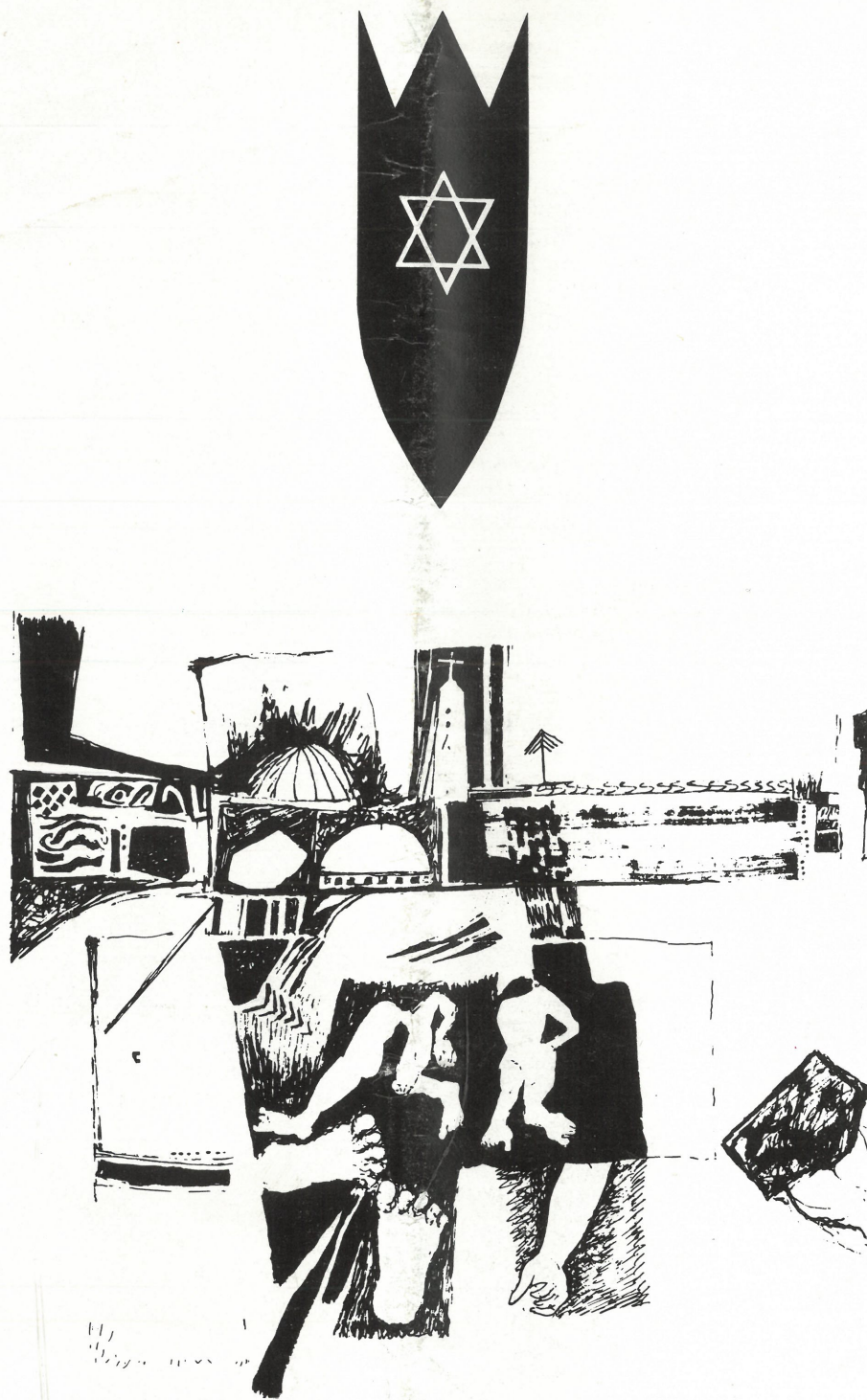


"Returning Back to the Roots"



"Together"

fastness against the imperialist and Zionist occupation of our land and allows us to thwart their attempt to destroy our Palestinian identity. Our art allows the Palestinian artist to stand beside the fedayeen in the forefront of our stand against colonialism and the Zionist enemy.



DAILY THREATS TO PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE MASSES

Palestine

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BEGIN-SHARON PLAN:

- MORE SETTLEMENTS
- MORE OPPRESSION
- MORE WARS