

DAILY THREATS TO PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE MASSES

Palestine

P.L.O.
information
bulletin

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BEGIN-SHARON PLAN:

- MORE SETTLEMENTS
- MORE OPPRESSION
- MORE WARS

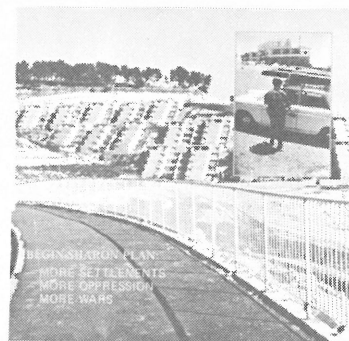
TO OUR READERS

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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EDITORIAL

MITTERRAND'S VISIT

Since the early beginning, the PLO had no illusions about the visit of the French President to Israel. The PLO vehemently opposed even the idea of such a visit because it encourages the aggressors to go along with their occupation and expansion. Aggressors should not be encouraged, but deterred.

Some French circles justified this visit in saying that Mitterrand had to go because he is indebted to Israel due to promises made during the election campaign. Others gave moral reasons towards the Jews who were killed during World War II in Europe. Others say that the French President is surrounded by arch-Zionist advisers who encouraged him to pay a visit to such an arrogant country. Others went further in their justifications to say that he will tell Begin something good about the Palestinians, and that he will say more than his Foreign Minister, Cheysson, has already declared on previous occasions.

Well, what we have witnessed of Mitterrand's visit to Israel was meager, or we can say, was a scandal!

Nothing serious was mentioned about the Palestinians and the PLO was mentioned as an organization of "combattants", without realizing that it represents the political aspirations of the Palestinian people. The Palestinian state was mentioned just at the end of a sentence, just to clear his conscience.

It seems that the French President is still living in the era of World War II and still has in mind the image of the persecuted Jew. He doesn't realize that Israel has become the persecutor of the Palestinian people and this is going on with Western money and partly French

money for the past 33 years. Monsieur Mitterrand is still stuck in his old memories without being able to develop and to see that the world has changed — or maybe his Zionist entourage does not allow him to act in a balanced way and to differentiate between the victims and the victimizers.

There is no doubt that Mitterrand's visit to Israel was an encouragement to the Zionist Israeli aggressors. They used Mitterrand in order to polish their image and to carry on with their expansionist policy of building new settlements (colonies) on the confiscated land of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza as well as on Syrian Arab land in the Golan Heights. The main scandal of this visit was the negotiation on delivery of nuclear reactors to Israel which will include other kinds of weaponry to the Israeli aggressors. The resumption of French arms deliveries to Israel, which were suspended since the June war of 1967 by the late French President Charles De Gaulle, can be considered as an act of aggression against the Palestinian people and the Arab Nation. With such a step, France can no longer be considered to be a neutral country in the Middle East conflict. The "wisdom" of Mr. Mitterrand will not pass without having negative repercussions on French interests in the Middle East. Helping the aggressors will definitely not satisfy the victims.

With this shift in French policy towards the Middle East conflict and the Palestinians in particular, France is going more and more along with the U.S. line. One has to say openly that the France of Mitterrand is no more the France of his predecessors, who were at least insisting not to be on the wrong side. But since the Suez war of 1956, Mitterrand has always been on the wrong side.

Palestine

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PALESTINE CHRONOLOGY

February 16: Chairman Yasser Arafat met with Buyan Traikov, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and Director-General of the Bulgarian News Agency. He was accompanied by the Bulgarian Ambassador to Lebanon.

The meeting, which reviewed the latest developments in the Arab arena, paid particular attention to the situation in south Lebanon with reference to Israel's military threats against the Palestinian and Lebanese masses there.

Next day, a cooperation agreement was signed between the Palestinian News Agency WAFA and the Bulgarian News Agency at WAFA's offices. The agreement was signed by the respective Director-Generals of the two agencies, Ziad Abdel Fattah and Buyan Traikov, in a ceremony attended by the Bulgarian Ambassador to Lebanon. The agreement includes exchange of news, information and photographs between the two agencies.

February 17 Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and Commander-in-Chief of the forces of the Palestinian Revolution, accompanied by Fateh Central Committee members Abu al-Walid, inspected Palestinian artillery units. During his tour, Arafat briefed the fighters on the military situation, in view of the Israeli military build-up and threats against both the Lebanese and Palestinian people.

Chairman Arafat received an invitation to visit the German Democratic Republic. It was handed to him by the GDR's Ambassador to Lebanon, Bruno Sedlacek. Arafat accepted the invitation, and the date of his visit will be announced in the near future.

February 20: Arafat received the Cuban Ambassador to Lebanon, in the presence of Fateh Central Committee member Abu al-Walid. The Ambassador transmitted to Arafat a verbal message regarding the call made by President Fidel Castro to the Non-Aligned countries about the Israeli military build-up and the expected aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. The message also concerned Castro's instructions to the Cuban delegate to the United Nations regarding total cooperation with the PLO delegate in this context.

February 22: Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO Political Department, met with a Norwegian parliamentary delegation, headed by the Deputy Foreign Minister. The meeting reviewed the latest political developments on the local, Arab and international levels, particularly the situation in south Lebanon.

The meeting comes within the framework of contacts which began in 1978 between Norway and the PLO, and which were a result of Norwegian participation in UNIFIL.

A delegation from the German Socialist Unity Party, headed by Kurt Seibt, Chairman of the German People's Solidarity Committee, toured the SAMED workshops and met with Samed's director, Abu 'Ala'.

The latter talked with the delegation about the historical development of the Palestine cause and the current situation. The delegation in turn confirmed the German people's stand beside the Palestinian people in their just struggle to regain all their national rights, including the right of return, self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestine state under the leadership of the PLO.

February 24: - Arafat received the Socialist delegation of the European Parliament headed by Ernest Glinne, member of the Belgian Socialist Party.

The delegation, which included nine parliamentarians from Belgium, Holland, Greece, Britain, Germany, France and Italy, is on a fact-finding tour of the Middle East which will also take them to Syria, Jordan and the occupied territories.

Yasser Arafat briefed the delegation on the latest political developments in the region. The delegation in turn confirmed the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state.

PALESTINE CHRONOLOGY

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat met with the leader of the Lebanese National Movement's Central Political Council, Walid Junblatt, in the presence of Tawfiq Sultan, Deputy head of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party.

Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and Commander-in-Chief of the Forces of the Palestinian Revolution headed a joint meeting of the PLO Executive Committee and the General Secretaries of the various groups of the Palestinian Revolution.

The participants in the meeting studied the working paper which had been prepared earlier, and which dealt with the current situation and future eventualities.

March 5: Fateh Central Committee member Abu Jihad received a delegation representing the Arab Engineers Union, which included Ibrahim Abu Ayash, President of the Union; Bahaeddin al Bsar, Head of the Lebanese Engineers' Union, and Marwan Abdel Hamid, Head of the General Union of Palestinian Engineers.

The meeting dealt with the Union's conclusion of special studies and plans for the reconstruction of south Lebanon, which has been destroyed as a result of repeated Israeli aggression.

The Arab Engineers Union had decided during its 15th conference to participate in evaluating projects for the reconstruction of south Lebanon.

Abu Jihad met Lord William Molloy, member of the British House of Lords who participated in the rally held by the Syrian Social Nationalist Party under the title: "Palestine Between Liquidation and Liberation." The meeting dealt with the latest developments of the current situation, especially in south Lebanon.

March 7: Chairman Arafat met in Riyadh with Crown Prince Fahd Ben Abdel Aziz of Saudi Arabia, with whom he discussed at length the works of the Islamic Goodwill Commission and evaluated its accomplishments. The talks also covered the situation in the Arab region in view of the Israeli military buildup in south Lebanon and the latest political developments.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal and Fateh Central Committee members Abu al-Walid, Hani al-Hassan, and Abu Shaker also attended the meeting.

Earlier, Yasser Arafat met with the President Ahmed Sekou Toure of Guinea at the latter's private suite at the Hamra Palace in Jeddah.

March 8: Arafat visited the headquarters of the General Union of Palestinian Women in Beirut to offer congratulations on the occasion of International Women's Day.

Arafat was accompanied by PLO Executive Committee member Abu Maher al-Yamani; Fateh Central Committee members Abu Jihad and Abu Iyad and Abu Mahmoud, member of the Command of the Arab Liberation Front.

March 8: Chairman Arafat met in Beirut with the Soviet Deputy Minister of Culture Yuri Barabash, with whom he discussed regional developments in general and the situation in south Lebanon in particular. The meeting was attended by the Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon Aleksander Soldatov, a number of Soviet embassy officials, and Fateh Revolutionary Council Secretary Sakhr (Abu Nizar).

Earlier, Yuri Barabash and the delegation accompanying him visited south Lebanon, and the Palestinian-Lebanese Joint Forces positions there.

At the Joint Forces headquarters in Sidon, the delegation met with al-Hajj Ismail, the Joint Forces Commander in the south Lebanon who briefed them on the military and social situation there.

Yuri Barabash, in turn, expressed his admiration and appreciation for the steadfastness of the Palestinian and Lebanese fighters in their confrontation of the imperialist enemy.

EVENTS IN PHOTOS

Chairman Arafat with Socialist delegation of the European Parliament



Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member, holding press conference on Mitterrand's Israel visit

Kurt Seibt, Chairman of GDR Solidarity Committee meeting with Abu 'Ala', director of SAMEP



Reception in honour of Theodorakis

P.L.O. HONOURS THEODORAKIS

On February 22, Chairman Yasser Arafat held a lunch reception in honour of Mikis Theodorakis, the Greek Member of Parliament and internationally renowned composer, who arrived in Lebanon at the invitation of the PLO and the Lebanese Ministry of Tourism.

The reception was attended by the General — Secretaries of the various organisations of the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement. Both PLO Chairman Arafat and Mikis Theodorakis delivered speeches at the beginning of the reception.

Theodorakis greeted the Palestinian and Lebanese cadres and leaders in the name of Greek progressive people and communists and all those hostile to imperialism. He compared the suffering of the Palestinian people with the suffering of the Greek people who were also victims of imperialism. He added that the struggle, although slow, was bound to ultimately defeat imperialism.

Theodorakis then said that there exists an international balance of forces, because of the presence of a Socialist bloc, headed by the Soviet Union which supports our movement; and because of the people's struggle for liberation which is achieving daily victories. We must therefore exploit this balance and direct it against imperialism. Theodorakis added; "consequently, we salute the popular revolution in Iran, and the achievements realised in Black Africa, in Nica-

ragua, and by those who are now at the vanguard of the struggle, Palestine and El Salvador."

Theodorakis concluded: "It is an honour for you to lead the struggle against imperialism; the whole world is proud of you, and you must continue the struggle until total victory."

PLO Chairman Arafat then followed, welcoming Theodorakis and referring to the historical ties between the Arab and Greek peoples, and said that the Greek and Arab militants will together march in the joint procession of struggle against imperialism, Zionism, colonialism and racial discrimination and to realize their common aspirations for a better world in which democracy and social progress would prevail.

Arafat thanked Theodorakis for the piece he composed for the PLO, which he described as "a true expression, from the heart, of the revolutionary and militant ties which bind us." Arafat then greeted all Greek militants, and said that the Greek people understand the true meaning of resistance against Nazism, imperialism, colonialism and fascism, because they suffered under all of these and were able to defeat them. "Victory is always on the people's side, in El Salvador in Latin America.. in Africa... in the Mediterranean and in the Middle East, and wherever there are militants struggling against colonialism and fascism and against discrimination," he said.

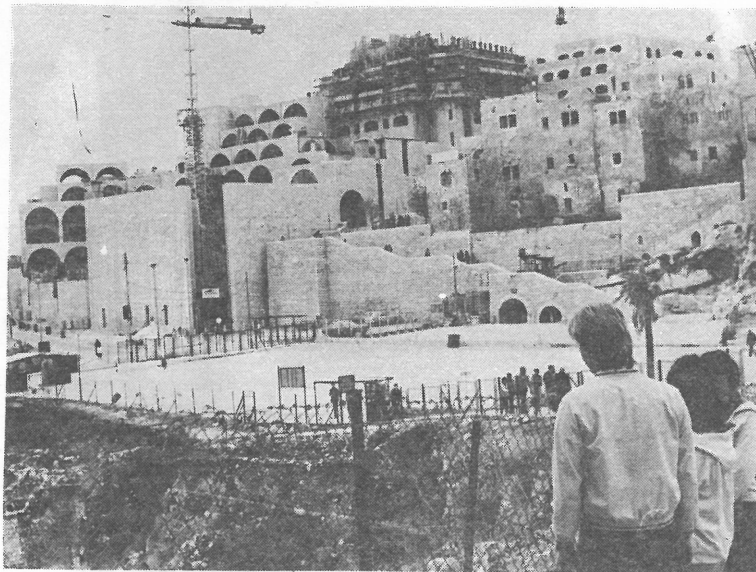
BEGIN GOVERNMENT HEADS TOWARDS ANNEXATION OF WEST BANK

Immediately after the Begin government annexed the Golan Heights, a massive new settlement campaign was unleashed in the West Bank and Gaza. At the beginning of February alone, over 17,000 dunums of land in various parts of the West Bank were seized to make way for new settlements. The 17,000 newly seized dunums are only the tip of the iceberg. Zionist War Minister Sharon announced plans at the beginning of the month that 14 new settlements would be established in the West Bank. The Jewish Agency's settlement head, Matityahu Drobles announced at the same time, that by the end of the year 30 new settlements would be established, 16 civilian and 14 paramilitary.

The Jordan Valley will be a special target for the new expansion. The Palestine news agency Wafa reported on February 18 that Israeli press accounts of that week indicated that "the occupation authorities plan to use the 'security pretext' for confiscating the land in question. In this way thousands of dunums will be seized, declared a military zone, and then transformed into civilian colonies. Israeli newspapers say that an extensive road and communications network has been established to link the proposed new settlement sites to existing colonies in the area."

With this strategy in mind, the Israeli High Court laid the juridical groundwork on February 10, for the massive wave of new land seizures. The *Jerusalem Post* reported on February 11, that the Court upheld "the military government's practice of declaring and seizing 'state lands' in the West Bank, and sanctioned the status of military advisory committees which are charged with reviewing claims of ownership brought by local residents." The decision ensures that Palestinian landowners in the West Bank will no longer have recourse to lengthy court appeals in trying to reclaim their land once it is seized, and the military occupation will be able to speed up land seizures.

The current Zionist settlement campaign aims at a rapid demographic transformation in the West Bank which would make formal annexation a quibbling side issue. The World Zionist



Massive settlement complex near Jerusalem

Organization has the desire to settle a million Jews in the West Bank over the next five years. While this is a rather fanciful goal, the drive to grab enough land in the West Bank for such a massive population transfer is proceeding apace, as the land seizures in February indicate.

A number of subsidiary schemes have already begun to unravel which would pave the way for eventual colonization on a scale which the World Zionist Organization (WZO) envisions. On February 21, Sharon announced that the government now has the intention of transferring all of Israel's major industrial complexes to the West Bank. Again "security" was used as the justification. Sharon stated that industry located in the coastal regions was exposed to outside attack. What really lies behind such a plan is the creation of an irreversible economic linkage between the West Bank and the 1948 areas of occupied Palestine. A second feature of such a project has to do with the lack of settlers willing to move to the West Bank. Since Jewish settlers are not pouring into the West Bank settlements in anywhere near the numbers that the government or the WZO would like, an alternative would be to settle the confiscated Palestinian land with bulky physical plant which would

prove as difficult to dismantle as massive apartment complexes.

Another Sharon scheme has been to provide government grants to private contractors who are willing to build housing for settlements or commuter bedroom communities in the West Bank. This is a plan in operation to get around the government's budgetary problems in publicly financing the settlements. The Israeli League for Human Rights held an emergency press conference in Jerusalem on February 23, to draw attention to the results of the Sharon plan for a private construction boom in the West Bank. Progressive Israeli lawyer Felicia Langer charged that the military government was assisting private contractors in fraudulent land transactions in which Palestinians were robbed of their property forged land titles. One of Langer's Palestinian clients for the West Bank village of Beit Amin near Tulkarm, testified at the press conference that land in his village was surveyed by private Israeli contractors while the men of the village were imprisoned in the local mosque by Israeli troops. An emergency appeal was presented to the press conference by the West Bank Palestinian mayors of Nablus, Tulkarm, Qalqilya and Anabta.

Nablus Mayor Bassam Shak'a has special cause for alarm. On February 9, more than 2,000 dunums of land on Mount Jezerim overlooking Nablus were seized by the military occupation authorities for "security purposes". The land was expropriated from the villages of Burin and Kufur Qalil. Israeli land surveyors immediately went to work and the area was sealed off with heavy metal posts and barbed wire. There are current plans for a ring of settlements to dot the tops of the hills overlooking Nablus in order to geographically squeeze what has been one of the centres of nationalist Palestinian resistance to the occupation.



Other than the Nablus and Jordan Valley regions, here is a run down of some of the other land seizures in February:

Bethlehem

In the Bethlehem area the head of the village council of Battir, and the Mukhtar of Al-Salaja informed residents of the villages of the confiscation of the long Arrwaisat mountain located between the two villages. Battir residents were reported to have asked the head of the village council for more details about the rise of the confiscated area, and the department which ordered the confiscation of their land. When the Custodian of the Absentee Property arrived in Battir four days later, February 15, pointed to the mountain and told the head of the village council, "All of that mountain's land is confiscated." The Israeli officer refused to divulge which department in the military government had ordered the confiscation. The area of Arrwaisat mountain in question is estimated to be 6,500 dunums. About 2,500 dunums belong to Battir residents, while the rest of the land is owned by villagers from Al-Walajah.

The new confiscations in the Bethlehem area will allow the Israelis to expand existing settlements, in this case, the high-rise Hargilo settlement, still under construction north of Beit Jala.

Jenin

In Tammun, southeast of Jenin, 900 dunums were taken in February, by the Israeli military authorities again for security purposes.

Ramallah

Qalqilya, and Ramallah areas also reported land confiscations at the beginning of February. About 5,000 dunums of land located between the villages of Kafr al-Dik, Rafat and Deir Ballut were confiscated on February 10.

13,000 GOLAN ARABS ON STRIKE

As *Palestine* goes to press, an open general strike which began on February 13, in protest against the Israeli annexation of the Golan Heights and the arrest and detention of four prominent Druze leaders on the orders of Zionist war minister Ariel Sharon, is being continued. The general strike is the second one in three months.

All shops, workplaces and schools have been closed down, and workers stayed away from work in Israeli factories and buildings in the Golan and Upper Galilee. Hundreds of protestors staged a peaceful demonstration in the town square of Majdel Shams, the largest Golan village. All transport and trade have been brought to a halt. Vast numbers of Israeli "security" forces have been drafted in to the four principal villages of the Golan Heights as tension in the area mounts.

Two days after the beginning of the general strike, on February 15, the Israeli occupation authorities banned Golan citizens from visiting their families in Syria. They also banned students, now in the Golan, from returning to Syria to continue their education. Israeli troops have already tried, unsuccessfully, to break the strike by storming schools and businesses. School headmasters have been arrested and interrogated.

In another move, aimed at forcing the population to capitulate, the Israeli authorities on February 24 reduced the water supply to Golan villages.

The Israeli authorities, on the night of 24-25 of February, closed all roads leading to the Golan Heights, and warned Syrian citizens against leaving or entering the area which was declared a military zone. Roadblocks were set up at the entrances to the Golan villages, and Israeli foot and mobile patrols were increased in response to an order issued by the commander of the northern district, the notorious racist Israel Koenig. Besides the brutal repression of the local Arab population, doctors, nurses and journalists of many nationalities have been subjected to harassment and have been restricted from entering the area by the Israeli authorities.

Arab protestors have expressed their readiness to remain steadfast for years if necessary and to continue the strike. They are demanding the immediate release of the four detained leaders, who are being



Children of Golan: "We don't want Israeli IDs"

represented by progressive Israeli lawyer Felicia Langer, and the immediate annulment of the annexation decision.

The Arab citizens of the Golan have declared that they will refuse to receive any services from the Israeli authorities, and as they regard themselves as people under foreign occupation, they have asked the International Red Cross to supply them with urgent requirements such as basic foodstuffs and medicines.

The Israeli military occupation authorities and the 6,000 Zionist settlers in the Golan started a campaign over one year ago to annex the Golan Heights. The Begin government accordingly took a decision to impose Israeli citizenship on the Syrian inhabitants.

After the Golan population began their protest against the blatant pressures to which they were being subjected in order to make them take this citizenship, the Israeli authorities were forced to retract their plans.

Then on December 14, 1981, in a lightning move, Begin rushed through the Knesset the Golan annexation bill which the occupation forces began to apply immediately.

The "state" institutions in the Golan refused to handle the affairs of the local population until the latter had accepted Israeli citizenship. The "Internal Affairs Bureau" refused to register newly born babies unless they were accorded Israeli nationality. The same bureau also imposed Israeli identity cards on children under the age of sixteen. Those who rejected the cards were penalised.

Similarly, the "Vehicle Registration Office" sent to car owners a notice instructing them to replace their registration plates with Israeli ones. The same applied to driving licences.

On February 10, more than 3,000 Golan residents held a meeting in 'Ain Qanya. They declared that they would not pay taxes to the Israeli government, they would refuse to sell their land regardless of the pressures exerted upon them, and they would reject all services from the Israeli authorities. They sent the Israeli military authorities a letter in which they demanded that their national identity be respected and that Israeli law not be applied to them. They further declared that they would launch a general strike if the Israeli annexation was not annulled within fifteen days.

The Israeli occupation forces responded by setting up more road-blocks. They stopped nearly fifty vans and lorries and confiscated their licences which effectively bars them from working. Later, at midnight on 12-13 February, Israeli police stormed the homes of four Arab citizens and detained Sheikhs Suleiman and Kamal Kanj Abu Saleh, Mahmoud Hussein al-Safadi and Kanj Kanj. The Israeli authorities thought that these measures would intimidate the Arab population and stop them from demanding their rights as citizens of an occupied area.

The detained leaders were ludicrously charged with "incitement to civil disobedience" — a relic of the British Mandate Emergency Laws. Some days before, on February 10, five Arab citizens of the village of 'Ain Qanya were arrested after they attempted to obstruct Israeli engineers and solidiers from surveying land in the area.

The people of the Golan had no option but to call a general strike in order to force the Israeli occupation authorities to respect their national rights and to release the detained leaders.

Felicia Langer visited the detainees on February 18 and afterwards revealed that they were being maltreated and that their health had deteriorated. They are being held in solitary confinement.

The annexation is totally opposed by the inhabitants of the Golan Heights, the Arab Druze of Syrian nationality, who regard this act as an act of aggression against them, and an act of denial of their right to be protected by the Geneva Convention, as protected persons in occupied territory.

Israel has occupied the Golan Heights since 1967, and has constantly refused to hand them back to Syria. The occupation and annexation are further evidence of the essentially colonialist nature of Zionism. It must be well remembered that this act of aggression against the Arab peoples was executed with the full connivance and material support of U.S. imperialism. This support allows the Zionists to further annex the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip with impunity.

Despite the total and persistent opposition of the indigenous population, and the condemnation of the

world community, as expressed in UN resolutions, Israel is continuing to implement the annexation.

The only way to defeat the Zionisation of the occupied territories is by continuous struggle and the full mobilisation of all the Arab potential in the battle against both Zionism and the American imperialists who stand behind it.

ISRAEL SUGGESTS ARAB MASS DEPORTATION

The Israeli Communications Minister Mordechai Zippori has clearly revealed Zionism's true intention in annexing the Golan: to rid the territory of its Arab inhabitants in order to maintain the "racial purity" of "Eretz Israel" (as the Zionists call Palestine).

Zippori demagogically declared that the only alternative for the 13,000 Golan Syrians who reject Israeli citizenship was for them to go to Syria. He said that his ministry would give every "assistance" in this regard. He added that the Israeli authorities would use force to break the general strike in the area if it continued.

He said: "It is necessary to react with an iron hand against those who incite to subversive activities, notably the religious Druze." (*L'Orient-Le Jour*, February 19, 1982)

Here it can be seen that the Zionists are using the tactics of the Nazis against the Jews in Europe in the 1930s.



"LIKE TELLING A BIRD NOT TO FLY"

(The following article by Munir Fasheh, dean of students at Bir Zeit University from 1979 to 1981 and a maths teacher for 20 years, was published in the New York Times, December 28, 1981. Fasheh is a doctoral candidate at Harvard University. The article was also printed in the Palestinian English language weekly Al Fajr, Jerusalem, on January 15, 1981).

The Israeli military government, on November 4, ordered the closing, until January 4, of Bir Zeit University, the main Palestinian university in the West Bank. The acting president, Dr. Gabi Baramki, the entire administration, and a number of faculty members and students, including all members of the student council, were placed under either house or town arrest, and others were imprisoned. Later some were freed.

Bir Zeit was closed after students demonstrated against Israel putting a civilian in charge of the occupied territories. Palestinians viewed the move as making the military occupation permanent. The students also had in mind the 64th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, in which Britain first promised the Jews a homeland.

Closing Bir Zeit, the most influential and well-known of the five Palestinian universities in the West Bank, is equivalent to closing the top twenty percent of the universities in the United States, deporting their presidents, putting hundreds of administrators and faculty members under arrest, and jailing thousands of students.

What are the "crimes" of Bir Zeit University that led to such a serious measure? The military governor cited "security" reasons. It is clear, however, that this is not a one-time emergency. In 1974, Bir Zeit was closed and its president, Dr. Hanna Nasir, was deported. No educational institution in the West Bank, including elementary schools, has escaped closure at one time or another; some, like Abu Deis University, have been shut permanently.

Bir Zeit started in 1924 as a small private school, added its first freshman year in 1951, and by 1973 was a full four-year institution with

ISRAELI AUTHORITIES CLOSE BIR ZEIT UNIVERSITY, CLASHES ERUPT IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

The Israeli military authorities have stepped up their systematic campaign of harassment and oppression directed against the most significant academic institution in the West Bank, the Bir Zeit University. On February 17, the University was closed for two months for the second time in four months. This step followed a provocative visit by the so-called "civil administration" officials to the University. The tension escalated with the presence of Zionist Rabbi Meir Khana — the infamous leader of the extreme racist Jewish Defence League — in the West Bank, on a "duty" mission. These two events, illustrate the Zionist intention to annex the West Bank after getting rid of intellectual and patriotic Palestinian elements.

The Palestinian masses inside the occupied territories clashed with the Israeli troops and many Palestinians were shot. The municipalities in the West Bank called for a general strike which brought the whole region to a standstill.

an educational system based primarily on that of American universities. About 40 percent of the 1,800 students currently enrolled are women.

Bir Zeit has created an atmosphere of intellectual freedom and remains independent from all governmental institutions of all countries so that students and faculty may work, think, and express their ideas freely. This philosophy, and the fact that every sector of Palestinian society is represented at the university, leads many Western journalists to consider Bir Zeit a "thermometer" of Palestinian thoughts and feelings.

In the absence of a national government, Bir Zeit has assumed responsibilities usually not found in other universities. For example its community-work programme requires that each student, in order to graduate, put in at least 120 hours in practical work, mainly in the West Bank, during his or her stay at the university — picking olives, cleaning streets, improving playgrounds, etc. The university also helped create a clinic in the village of Bir Zeit, about 10 miles north of Jerusalem, that serves a total of seven villages, and a programme whose purpose is eradication of illiteracy in the West Bank and Gaza.

Preserving Palestinian folklore and culture is another important activity, and the university plans to open a school of fine arts soon. Palestinian folklore, however, expresses the Palestinian tragedy, which is almost total in scope:



the loss of rights. Almost every Palestinian has been deeply affected by this tragedy.

Bir Zeit students, who have grown up in the shadow of the occupation, do not live in an abstract world. Their lives are filled with events that profoundly affect their families, themselves — their future. In addition, because of the loss of most of their land, Palestinians have increasingly turned to education as their only hope for survival.

Any measure against Palestinian educational institution threatens the existence of Palestinian society itself. The most serious measure so far has been Military Order 854 (July 6, 1980). One provision requires that every faculty member and student, before applying to any university in the West Bank or Gaza, must apply for a permit from the military government. What a credential to require for an education!

Is there hope? I believe there is. My hope springs from some events smaller in scale but much more important in meaning and effect. On November 7, for example, about 100 professors and students from the Hebrew University marched in the West Bank to support Bir Zeit and protest Israeli treatment of the university. In October, a Hebrew University committee asked that Order 854 be rescinded; it released a report that, with previous closures in mind, said that closing a university is an act of collective punishment. Ironically, no head of an Arab academic institution has yet raised a clear voice in support of academic freedom for Palestinian institutions.

For Israeli Jews to stand firmly against the military occupation and its policies is, however, the beginning of a real basis for Jews and Arabs to live together in peace.

The main crime of Bir Zeit University is simply that it is Palestinian. For the Israeli Government to demand that Bir Zeit not be Palestinian is like telling a bird not to fly.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY PATRIOTIC BODIES IN JERUSALEM

Nationalist figures, institutions, unions, and associations in Jerusalem held a meeting on February 25 at the Arab Graduates Club in Jerusalem. A communique was released following the meeting, in which the participants condemned the annexation of the Golan Heights and discussed French President Mitterrand's forthcoming visit to Israel and a scheduled meeting between the occupation authorities and the Political Committee of the European Parliamentary delegation in Jerusalem. The meeting discussed the latest Israeli campaigns of repression in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and the Golan and the resulting opposition by the respective populations.

The communique denounced these campaigns and the continued seizure of land for the construction of new settlements, under the pretext that the land is absentee property. It condemned mass arrests, the closure of universities, the demolition of Palestinian-owned homes and the imposition of curfews in the various towns and camps. It then referred to the Israeli desecration of Islamic sites and considered these actions as a violation of the freedom of worship, a right respected by all civilized countries.

The communique protested against the Israeli authorities imposition of illegal taxes on the inhabitants. It denounced the violation of the freedom of speech as represented in the restriction of movement on editors-in-chief, mayors and even students, and the imposition of military censorship on the various newspapers. The communique also strongly condemned the attempts to replace the legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people by enemy puppets.

The communique added that military orders 854 against Palestinian universities and 83 against unions constitute a grave interference in the affairs of Arab academic institutions and trade unions.

Finally, the communique discussed the forthcoming visit of French President Mitterrand to Israel and its effects on relations with France. The communique concluded by appealing to the international community to work for the realisation of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, under the leadership of the PLO.

ISRAELI REPRESSION ON WEST BANK

The Israeli occupation authorities on February 14, banned all heads and members of village councils in the Hebron district from travelling to Jordan without obtaining an official permit from the so-called "civil administration" of the area. The move is part of the authorities' campaign to tie all the affairs of councils, municipalities and ordinary citizens to the "civil administration", in an attempt to impose this new system on them as a prelude to imposing "autonomy".

In the Nablus area, residents of the Balata and Askar camps and the villages of Tubas, Tayasir and Tamun have been banned from leaving the West Bank since February 6. No explanation has been given for this measure of collective punishment.

In continuing Israeli attempts to repress the views of patriotic figures in the occupied West Bank, two mukhtars from Tulkarem have been removed from their posts for refusing to comply with Zionist demands that they collaborate with the quisling village leagues. The Israeli occupation authorities on February 20 detained six Palestinians from the village of Dora near Hebron, several Palestinians from Nablus, and three from Tulkarem on the grounds that they were resisting the occupation and undertaking nationalist activities.

A military court in Nablus the day before sentenced two Palestinians to one year in prison plus 10 months' suspended term each for allegedly throwing an empty bottle at an Israeli military vehicle. Two other Palestinians charged with participating in demonstrations against the occupation were sentenced to six months' imprisonment each.

ISRAEL BLOCKS PALESTINIAN MUNICIPALITY FUNDS

Al-Bireh municipality on February 15, demanded that the military authorities in the occupied West Bank hand over funds to which it is entitled for the execution of some general projects. The Israeli military government has been holding the money of al-Bireh and other West Bank municipalities without giving any explanation.

PALESTINIAN VOLUNTEERS CULTIVATE CONFISCATED LAND

On February 21, a large number of Palestinian youths participated in a volunteer effort which resulted in the planting of 80 dunums of confiscated land with fig trees and grapevines near Aboud and 'Ain 'Areek, near Ramallah. The Ramallah/al-Bireh youth social work committee also helped to pave streets in the two towns. On the day before more than 1,000 volunteers joined farmers in the area in cultivating their confiscated land, despite the occupation authorities' attempts to prevent them. They began planting olive and fig trees and grapevines over a total of 40,000 dunums of confiscated land.

KHALAF: OUR PEOPLE REJECT THE CIVIL ADMINISTRATION

Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf on February 22, told a correspondent of West German television that the Palestinian people reject the 'civil administration' project and insist on the establishment of their independent state under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. Khalaf then briefed the correspondent on the latest developments in the occupied West Bank and the oppression practised by the Israeli occupation authorities against the Palestinian

people. He stressed that the Palestinians are peace-loving people striving for the realization of a just and lasting peace which would guarantee their legitimate rights.

4 PALESTINIAN PERSONALITIES UNDER RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ORDER

The Israeli military authorities on February 25, issued a restriction of movement order against Dr. Amin al-Khatib, head of the federation of charity organizations in the West Bank; Faysal al-Husseini, Director of the Centre for Arab Studies in Jerusalem, Samih Abu 'Eisho, a member of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society in Hebron and Khalil Abu Ziyad, head of the committee for the care of the handicapped and their families in Jerusalem. The order will be in force six months. With regard to Khatib and Husseini, the order means that they cannot leave Jerusalem without special permission from the Israeli authorities, that they must not leave their homes after 6 PM or change address and that they must report to the police station in Moskoubiyeh once a day. This arbitrary measure was imposed because the men were collecting donations for the inhabitants of the occupied Golan Heights to support them in their open strike. The donations, which were in the form of money and goods, were confiscated by the authorities.

ISRAELI AUTHORITIES EXTEND RESTRICTION ORDER OF ANABTA MAYOR

On February 23, the Israeli occupation authorities have extended an order restricting the movement of Anabta Mayor Wahid Hamadallah for an additional six months... Hamadallah was placed under the order in May 1980.

ZIONISM IN PRACTICE

SHARON: ISRAELI INDUSTRIES MUST MOVE TO WEST BANK, GALILEE, NEGEV

Israeli War Minister Ariel Sharon on February 22 announced his Government's intention to transfer Israeli industrial complexes from the coastal strip to the West Bank, the Galilee, and the Negev. During a meeting with the Israeli Industrial Organisation, Sharon announced that this decision had been taken as a result of fear over the future exposure of factories in the coastal strip to danger. He confirmed that the authorities would share in financing the construction of new facilities well inside the territories occupied in 1967.

Sharon added that the Israeli Government would continue to build on its strategic superiority over the Arab states. Sharon's statement provides irrefutable evidence, if such evidence was needed, that the Israeli authorities intend to annex the West Bank and that their expansionist ambitions know no bounds.

ZIONISTS SETTLEMENTS BY TERRORISM

The Israeli Settlements Minister on February 25 announced a plan to expand the Kiryat Arba'a settlement at the expense of Palestinian citizens living nearby. Palestinian inhabitants of the area, have been constantly subjected to intimidation and violence. The home of Najih Said Da'aneh has been attacked by Zionist settlers throwing hand grenades, four times in the two weeks up to February 24. The Israeli authorities have confiscated 14 dunums of his land and recently, armed extremist settlers surrounded his home and shot at him and his family, wounding him in the leg.

Similar terrorist tactics are in widespread use by the Zionists. On February 20, Zionist settlers shot at Ahmad Abdel Rahman from Deir al-Hatab near the Elon Moreh colony in the Nablus region. Abdel Rahman had earlier received threats from Zionist settlers to make him leave his land. Israeli bulldozers have begun work levelling land belonging to Ibrahim Atalah from Beit Sakaria near Bethlehem to expand the 'Kfar Etzion' colony. This is in defiance of an Israeli Supreme Court injunction ordering work on the land to be stopped.

LANGER: ISRAELI JAILERS USING NEW TORTURE METHODS

Israeli lawyer Felicia Langer, disclosed on February 14 that the Israeli prison authorities are practising new and more savage physical and psychological methods of torture on Palestinian detainees in Ramallah jail. Ms. Langer said that one of five detainees at the prison had informed her that his Israeli jailers had stripped him of his clothes, poured cold water over him, burned his body with cigarette butts and kept him standing for hours on end while his head was covered with a bag. During this entire process he was beaten mercilessly. Langer added that this 'routine' was inflicted on the detainee for more than three weeks, during which no charges were brought against him. The authorities have now extended his detention another 60 days.

PALESTINIAN SENTENCED TO 8 YEARS IN JAIL

The Israeli military court in Ramallah on February 25 sentenced the Palestinian citizen Younis Hassan Sidr from Jerusalem to eight years imprisonment, four of them suspended. Sidr was detained seven months ago on charges of affiliation to the Palestinian Revolution and involvement in anti-occupation activities during the month of Ramadan 1981.

MILITARY COURT SENTENCES STUDENT DEMONSTRATOR

The Israeli military court in Nablus on February 24 sentenced Yusef Hassan Mahmoud 'Awad, Salem Abdel Hamid Subh and Jamal Massoud to a suspended five months' jail term, and fined them 5,000 Shekels each for alleged participation in Nablus demonstrations, and stoning an Israeli military vehicle.

The same court also sentenced Ahmad Said Awdeh to a suspended five months' prison term, and fined him 10,000 Shekels, on similar charges.

Another court in Nablus on February 23 fined several students between 4,000 and 7,000 Shekels for participating in the Nablus demonstrations and hurling stones at Israeli vehicles.

ISRAEL TRIES TO EXPROPRIATE PALESTINIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York has decided against a proposed archaeological exhibition from Israel as inappropriate because it would include material from the West Bank and would pose security problems for the museum. The display, ranging from earliest times to the Crusades and composed of ancient Jewish, Islamic and Christian artifacts, would have included material from the Israel Museum, but relied most heavily on objects from the Rockefeller Museum related to the West Bank of occupied Palestine.

Mr. Philippe de Montebello, director of the "Met", who visited the occupied land in 1981 to make a preliminary selection of material commented: "It would be inappropriate, that the museum would be taking a de facto stand in showing this material as the heritage of the state of Israel."

PRO-ZIONIST AMERICANS
LAUNCH CAMPAIGN
AGAINST U.N.O.

The New York Mayor Edward Koch is inciting Zionist terrorist attacks on U.N. diplomats. Koch was displeased with the U.N. General Assembly's resolution condemning Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights. "Koch actually provokes terrorist organisations operating in New York, like the so-called Jewish Defence League, to step up actions against diplomats staying in New York".

On February 17, the Soviet Tass news agency commented on the recent pro-Zionist attacks on U.N. diplomats, supported by Koch and the U.S. representative in the U.N. Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick in the following article:

"In the very heart of New York, at the busy corner of Broadway and 34th street, there is a streamer claiming that the American taxpayer gives money for the upkeep of the U.N., controlled by 'the Arabs and the Communists', and urging efforts to make the U.N.

leave the city. The streamer is signed 'Jewish Defence League'.

This is one of the manifestations of the hysterical campaign unleashed by the Zionist forces against the United Nations with the tacit approval of the US administration. They were particularly outraged by the results of the recent Special Emergency Session of the U.N. General Assembly, which strongly denounced the annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights by Tel Aviv and openly charged the United States with supporting Israel.

"Attacks on the international community which Yehuda Blum, Israel's representative at the United Nations, started following these decisions, are supported by New York mayor Edward Koch, who is known for his Zionist and pro-Israeli views. He has gone so far as suggesting that the United Nations should go away from the city."

JAPAN PROVIDES ISRAEL
WITH WAR EQUIPMENT

Japan supplied Israel with four patrol ships, the newspaper *Yomiuri* reported on February 8, 1982. The ships were built at the shipyards of the Japanese company Toyo Boto in Yokosuka. The newspaper *Mainichi* also reported that another Japanese shipbuilding firm, Hakodate Dock supplied Israel in 1978-1979 with four multi-purpose ships with the mediation of the Liberian Shipping Association. The newspaper stressed that the facts of concealed export of warships built in Japan to a country which is in the state of armed conflict with its Arab neighbours, will invariably cause stormy debates in the Japanese parliament. At the parliamentary session now under way in Tokyo, deputies from opposition parties already made allegations concerning Japan's export of weapons to the government many times.

Representatives of the government every time denied violation of the ban on export of weapons existing in Japan. The facts cited by the newspapers *Yomiuri* and *Mainichi*

show what these official refutations are really worth.

Japan's defence agency, foreign ministry and international trade and industry ministry are now working out a joint plan for the supply of Japanese military know-how to the USA. Washington is extremely interested in the latest Japanese achievements in electronics and a number of other spheres. The Pentagon would like to start joint production of weapons with

Japan, sharing duties and even expenditures of production.

Speaking on February 7, in one of the parliamentary commissions, Japan's Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki called for a positive answer to the United States striving to get Japan's know-how for military purposes. Such attempts run counter to the principles officially proclaimed by Japan which ban the export of weapons and military equipment to other countries.

The following news item was published by the British daily *"The Guardian"* in its February 15, 1982 issue. We reprint it without any changes and comments:

STAMP HONOUR
FOR TWO KILLERS

"From our Correspondent in Jerusalem.

"Israel is to issue postage stamps bearing the portraits of the two Stern Gang gunmen who murdered Lord Moyne, Sir Winston Churchill's Minister of State, in Cairo in 1944.

"The two, Eliahu Beit-Zouri and Eliahu Hakim, were hanged in March, 1945. Their bodies were returned to Israel 30 years later, when they were given a state funeral and re-buried on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem.

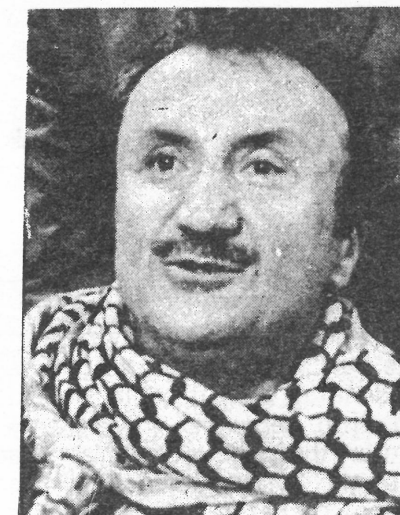
"In a statement to the Commons after the murder, Churchill said: "A shameful crime has shocked the world and affected none more strongly than those like myself who, in the past, have been consistent friends of the Jews and constant architects of their future.

"The stamps are two of a series of 20 dedicated to what the Israeli Cabinet defined yesterday as "the martyrs of the generation of the establishment of the state of Israel." Twelve of the 20 were Stern Gang, or Irgun Zvai Leumi, fighters who were executed by the British, or took their own lives under sentence of death.

"The Irgun was commanded by the present Prime Minister, Mr Begin, and the ruthless Stern Gang by a triumvirate which included the now Foreign Minister, Mr Shamir. Yesterday's Cabinet announcement of the stamps ended: 'May the Lord avenge their blood.'



ISRAEL CREATES CLIMATE OF
SYSTEMATIC TERROR AGAINST
WEST BANK PALESTINIANS



Bassam Shak'a: alive and fighting

The Palestinian Mayor of Nablus, Bassam Shak'a, in the occupied West Bank, has denounced the "climate of systematic intimidation created by the Israeli authorities." In a communique issued to the press on Saturday, February 27, he referred to rumors persistently circulated in Jerusalem, according to which "he had died".

"Before the bomb blast of June 2, 1980, in which I lost my legs," Bassam Shak'a explained, "similar rumors about my death have also been circulated before. It is a campaign deliberately instigated to intimidate us."

Bassam Shak'a and his colleague of Ramallah, Karim Khalaf, were seriously wounded in June 1980, when their booby-trapped cars exploded. Those responsible for the

terror attack have never been "discovered" by the Israeli occupation bodies, although the two leading Palestinian mayors have been always kept under constant surveillance and harassment by Israeli security personnel. In the case of Palestinian resistance operations against the occupation, the Israeli occupation never fails to present the alleged "culprits".

Bassam Shak'a's alarm coincides with complaints made by Arab journalists in Israeli-occupied Jerusalem about the terrorist activities of an Israeli under-cover organisation calling itself "terrorism against terrorism" (TNT). Under the eyes of the occupation authorities, the cars of several Palestinian personalities in Jerusalem have been sacked recently accompanied by personal threats and intimidation.

ISRAEL THREATENS "LAST WAR" IN MIDDLE EAST

Throughout the past two months, Israel and its allies have been blaring out bellicose propaganda against the PLO, Lebanon and Syria, vicious threats which aim to embroil the whole Middle East region in a new war. The Zionist leaders treated with particular outrage a Palestinian commando raid into occupied Palestine across the Jordan River at the end of January. Tension was further deliberately heightened by the decision of the Israeli cabinet to go into secret session to discuss the matter.

Afterwards, an Israeli spokesman, quoted by *International Herald Tribune* on February 13, 1982, declared: "We regard all this as a violation of the ceasefire." He quickly added that it does "not yet" constitute the "clear provocation" that Begin has spoken of in defining what it could take to trigger an Israeli plunge into Lebanon. However, the stress should be placed on the "not yet". As last year's Israeli annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights and Israel's savage bombings of Beirut and Baghdad prove, it does not take much for a "provocation" to become "clear" to the terrorist Begin.

Zionist Foreign Minister Shamir, with the warped logic typical of Zionist leaders, sees a "terrorist incursion from Lebanon by way of Jordan as a serious violation of the Lebanese border ceasefire agreed last July."

On Israeli television, on February 17, Sharon, Zionist war minister, declared: "The Palestinians are reinforcing themselves in south Lebanon under the protection of the Syrian umbrella. There will be no more special reprisal operations as in the past, for a reprisal operation would lead to the Palestinian bombardment of Israeli frontier areas, which we will not allow. The situation which prevailed last July will not occur again." He also extended the threat of full-scale invasion towards Syria — "Syria is preparing itself for war and we have concrete proof of this." (*L'Orient-Le-Jour* 18/2/82 and *Times* 19/2/82.)

On February 19, Sharon declared that Israeli military strategy rests henceforth on the "credibility of its dissuasion" and on "preventive attacks". The Fakhani massacre in Beirut and the bombing raid on the Iraqi nuclear power station were examples of such "preventive" attacks.

Three days later, Begin spat out his own particular brand of venom in an interview with Colombian television. He said that Israel would answer with an immediate military action into south Lebanon if one of its citizens fell victim to any sort of Palestinian resistance operation against the occupation. This is the first time that Begin himself has launched direct threats against south Lebanon since last year. Until now threats of war have been the speciality of Sharon.

Moshe Arens, Israeli ambassador in the U.S., said on February 24, that Israel could launch a military attack against south Lebanon if the PLO continued to increase its armaments. He said that such action would annihilate the PLO (*L'Orient-Le Jour* Feb 26, 1982)

Also on the 24th, Yehuda Blum, Israel's representative at the UN speaking in the Security council, suggested that the Palestinians should be removed from Lebanon as was done in Jordan in 1970.

Saad Haddad, the Lebanese fascist collaborator with the Israelis, has also been adding to the campaign of threats against the Palestinians. He called on Israel to take immediate measures to stop the "dangerous build-up" of Palestinian arms.

The imperialist backers of Zionist expansionism have been issuing menacing threats against the Arab world also. After Jeanne Kirkpatrick's attack on the UN General Assembly's condemnation of Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights, Dean Fisher, U.S. State Department spokesman, issued an ominous warning that if Palestinian guerrilla action continued against Israel, south Lebanon was likely to be attacked by Israel (*London 8 Days* 20/2/82). These warnings and threats can only be interpreted as a green light from Washington to Tel Aviv to launch a large-scale attack.

The *International Herald Tribune* (13/2/82) writes that what is going on is an orchestrated campaign to engage public opinion and support for a full-scale invasion to crush the PLO in southern Lebanon. Various preparations have been made towards this eventuality. U.S. *Time* magazine (15/1/82) reported that Sharon recently met with Lebanese Phalangist leader



Israeli destruction in Kafr Tibnit, south Lebanon

Bashir Gemayel, on an Israeli warship off the coast of Junieh, to discuss cooperation during an invasion. Furthermore Joshua Seguy, head of Israeli military intelligence, visited Washington with detailed plans for an Israeli attack on Lebanon.

All signs indicate that an Israeli attack on Lebanon is close. Israel ordered a "mass mobilisation" which began on February 10 and ended on February 14. The Israelis have amassed a heavy concentration of forces on the Lebanese border and in the Israeli-Lebanese fascist controlled border strip in south Lebanon. Israeli troop movements are heavy, especially around Safed in northern occupied Palestine.

Israeli naval vessels have repeatedly intruded into Lebanese territorial waters and Israeli air force planes continue to fly low over Beirut. Israeli tanks have been pouring into the border enclave controlled by the Lebanese fascists and taking up positions prepared in advance.

Camouflage has been removed from artillery guns and missile launchers have been stationed there. Israeli troops are concentrating on Lebanese territory, particularly around the villages of Dibbine, Marjayoun, Khiyam, Blat, Kfar Kala and Deir Mimas. just south and east of the river Litani.

Nearly 65 localities and villages have been fortified with artillery batteries, tanks, machine-gun nests and barbed wire. On the hills of Labuneh, on the southern coast, Israel has installed surface-to-surface missiles and "Hawk" missiles, as well as tank formations installed in Beit Yahmoun, Ramiah and Beit Lif. The Beirut daily *As-Safir* reported on February 17, that Israel had moved another mechanised brigade and more artillery into Khiyam in southeast Lebanon.

Not only is Israel launching a massive military escalation. There have been some acts of terrorism carried out in south Lebanon by the Israelis. On February 13, a car bomb which killed five persons and wounded thirty-three others exploded in Ain al-Hilweh refugee camp. The devices and detonators were marked with Hebrew letters. Five days earlier Israeli guns shelled the Area of 'Ain Ata from positions near Kafr Shouba in the eastern border section. A unit of Haddad's militias is being trained on mortars inside Israel.

In a special report to the Security Council, Javier Perez de Cuellar the UN Secretary General, said that the situation in south Lebanon was extremely unstable. He added that Lebanon's territorial integrity is still being violated by Israel and the Israeli-backed Haddad separatists had not stopped their attacks despite an appeal by the Security Council.

So convinced are they that an attack is imminent, that senior diplomats in Tel Aviv have even organised a sweepstake to predict the date of the Israeli military operation. (*Times* 19/2/82)

The Joint Coordination Committee in south Lebanon, which includes representatives of the Palestinian Revolution, the Lebanese National Movement (LNM) and Amal, has adopted a series of measures on the military level to confront any Israeli aggression. On February 18, the LNM declared a general mobilisation among its forces and sections in reiteration of its determination to ward off any Israeli attack side by side with the fighters of the Palestinian Revolution.

The aggressive threats and military escalation of Israel in south Lebanon are in line with the Zionist policy of genocide against the Palestinian people. Since the Israeli annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights on December 14 last year, Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO, has warned repeatedly that the Zionists were preparing themselves for a full-scale invasion. Western diplomats expect some kind of move by Israel before April 25, the date of the planned Israeli withdrawal from Sinai. However, intelligence analysts claim that no attack is likely before President Mitterrand's visit to Israel during the first week of March.

Relying on full support from U.S. imperialism, Israel is stepping up its terrorist activities against the Arab states. The annexations of East Jerusalem in 1980 and Golan in 1981, and the military escalation are the prelude to the annexation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. With the Camp David cover blown, Israel is creating tension in Lebanon and Syria in order to distract world attention from the creation of new settlements in the West Bank. With the chances of a "peaceful annexation" via the Camp David conspiracy, down the drain, Israel will pull the whole region into a new war in order to claim "security reasons" for not withdrawing from Sinai and its annexation of the West Bank and Gaza.

Washington is again sending Philip Habib, its special envoy, back to the region. The visit was proposed after the Tayasir commando operation mentioned above, whereas the U.S. took no measures after the Israeli annexation of the Golan. Washington considers legitimate Palestinian self-defence as an act that would involve the whole area in a military confrontation, while it totally ignores the Israeli atrocities in the occupied territories and threats against Lebanon.

The Soviet attitude is markedly different from that of Washington. Alexander Soldatov, the Soviet Ambassador in Lebanon declared: "We are opposed to all aggression and we will confront any Israeli attack against Arab countries."

The Israeli leaders have boasted that an attack on Lebanon will be the last war. However, the last war in the Middle East will only end when the Palestinians people recover their national rights.

U.S. "SPECIAL ENVOY": MORE VIOLENCE FOR THE REGION

While Israel is escalating its threats of military aggression, and the U.S. administration has just announced its intentions to increase its military "aid" for the Israeli aggressor state, President Reagan's "special envoy" to the Middle East Philip Habib, on February 27, embarked on a new tour to Lebanon, Israel, Syria and other Middle East countries. All of the four earlier trips of the U.S. "peace" man were accompanied by explosions and scores of deaths on the ground: in April 1981 when the Israelis, with the help of Lebanese rightist agents, provoked the so-called "missile crisis" by shooting down Syrian helicopters over Lebanon; in June when Israeli planes bombed the nuclear centre of Iraq; in July when entirely unprovoked Israeli air raids started a two weeks' open war, killing hundreds of civilians; on July 17 alone more than 300 women, children and elderly people were murdered during the Israeli air raids on Beirut and other Lebanese towns, while Habib had just left Israel.

In a comment of February 26, 1982, the Beirut daily *as-Safir* called on the Lebanese and other Arab governments to boycott the latest mission of U.S. envoy Habib, noting that "a new wave of violence rocked Lebanon" before or after each of his four Mideast tours. The Soviet news agency *Novosti* on February 25, noted the same fact, adding that the U.S. envoy pretended to be the architect of the Lebanese border ceasefire of July 1981, which in fact had been established only due to the "heroic struggle of the Palestinian and Lebanese patriots... and the support of the Soviet Union." The same day the Soviet *Red Star* wrote that Israel, encouraged and supported by the United States, did not conceal that it was preparing to concentrate the entire power of its war machine on Lebanon in order to crush the national patriotic forces there and the Palestinian Resistance."

MITTERRAND BACKING ISRAELI OCCUPATION

French President François Mitterrand visited Israel at the beginning of March, in spite of the continual Israeli threats against south Lebanon and the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples; in spite of Israel's annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights, the creation of new settlements throughout the occupied territories, the annexation and adoption of Arab Jerusalem as the "capital" of Israel, the savage and reckless bombing raids on Beirut and Baghdad; in spite of the terror and repression practiced constantly against the Palestinian people under occupation; and in spite of thousands of measures which violate international charters and conventions and human rights.

Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO Political Department, affirmed the PLO's opposition to Mitterrand's visit to Israel. He said, "If France wishes to maintain its ties of friendship with the Arabs, it has to take their feelings into consideration and realize that their main enemy is Israel which is an occupier and an aggressor. France should clearly announce its objection to Israel's aggressive policies, and should take a stand in support of the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and of the Palestinian people's right to return to their land."

In the occupied territories, a delegation representing all the West Bank and Gaza Strip municipalities met with the French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson in occupied Jerusalem on March 4. They handed Cheysson a memorandum strongly denouncing Mitterrand's visit to the Zionist entity, and demanding that France immediately recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The delegation included Bassam Shaka'a, Karim Khalaf, Elias Freij, and Rashad Shawa — the mayors of Nablus, Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Gaza respectively.

The "Black Book" memo dealt with Zionist practices and French policy in the Middle East. The mayors wanted to explain to the French President the reality in the occupied territories — the strife of the Palestinian people who suffer from the worst forms of racist settler colonialism. The memo contained the following points:

- The mayors of the occupied territories demand that the French government not participate in the Camp David accords.

- The French government ought to pressure Israel to stop its aggressive actions against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, including land confiscation, expropriation of water resources, and



Mitterrand: in step with U.S.-Israeli aggressors

emptying the occupied territories of Palestinian youth by deportation.

- The PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The municipalities will struggle in every possible way to preserve their Palestinian identity and character despite Israeli repression.

Later, Bassam Shaka'a in a press interview attacked the civil administration, considering it to constitute a graver danger to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories than the military occupation. Gaza Mayor Rashad Shawa said, "We have presented Cheysson with a petition affirming that the Palestine cause is inseparable from the Palestinian people wherever they reside." Karim Khalaf said the Mayors strongly denounce Mitterrand's visit which immediately follows the annexation of the Golan and the UN's imposition of sanctions on Israel, which means that France does not respect UN resolutions.

It is clear that France under Mitterrand has become reliant on U.S.-Israeli policy, thus cancelling its claim of being a mediator in the Middle East. France must be dealt with, from now on, in accordance with its actions and practices. It must be dealt with in the light of its tail-ending of U.S. imperialist policy.

Fateh Central Committee member Abu Iyad, at a press conference in Beirut on March 6, commented on Mitterrand's speech to the Knesset saying the most dangerous thing in his declarations was that he raised the autonomy conspiracy as a matter for consideration once more, and that his visit constitutes a complete bias towards Israel despite his feeble expressions about the Palestinian cause.

He added that Mitterrand mentioned the PLO in his speech before the Knesset only to cast doubt upon its being the representative of the Palestinian people, demanding that the Palestinian recognize Israel before they can sit down with the Israelis to negotiate.

NATO GOING SINAI



Casper Weinberger plans RDF capability for Sinai force

In early February 1982, it was finally arranged between the U.S. government, Israel and some EEC and NATO governments that the latter should join with their military contingents the U.S.-led force which is scheduled to take over the Sinai peninsula from Israel next April. Over 400 troops, plus equipment from France, Britain, Holland and Italy, will help to prop up the corps of at least 2,500 men, the bulk of which will be provided by the United States, in addition to troops from other U.S. allies like Australia, New Zealand, Colombia, Uruguay and Fiji. Italian ships are to patrol the Strait of Tiran. The overall military commander of the troop, however will be Frederik Bull Hansen, a Norwegian former NATO general, while the de facto management will lie with a "civilian" U.S. director, General Leamon Hunt.

The finally accomplished complicity of NATO and the EEC in joining the U.S. Camp David "peace" exposes the truth about the empty talk of an "independent European Middle East policy" which "should not depend on the policy of the U.S." and "cannot closely cooperate with the Americans since our assessment of the Middle East situation differs so much from that of the U.S." (French foreign minister Claude Cheysson in one of his many chameleon-like statements on the Middle East on January 10, 1982).

Contrary to their earlier affirmations that they would only participate in the Sinai force in the interests of a "comprehensive peace" and on the basis of their Venice declaration of 1980, it was eventually

reported that the governments of the EEC countries, ready to send troops, apparently agreed to participate "in the cadre of the various accords concluded between (the U.S.,) Egypt and Israel" (*Agence France Presse* March 31, 1982).

All this came after weeks of a rather cheap theatre of Israel allegedly "protesting" against the participation of the NATO countries in the force. It also comes in contradiction and violation of the clear decisions of the United Nations condemning the U.S. Camp David deals and explicitly refusing any backing of the Sinai force by the international community.

The EEC/NATO grouping surrenders to the U.S.-style "peace" policy at a time when, four years after Camp David, the Middle East region is more full of violence and tension and further from peace and stability than ever.

Israel has just brutally raped the Golan territory. The militarists in Tel Aviv, assured of their strategic backing from Washington, more than ever turn to threats, violence and terror against all their Arab neighbours and the entire region. The Egyptian "hero of peace" has perished; the situation in the Gulf is tense, with Israel cheering over the Iraqi-Iranian war, indirectly favoured by the United States. Waves of violence, terror and destabilization, kindled by Israeli agents, are shaking Lebanon and Syria, and even Jordan is threatened while U.S. "special envoys" are touring the area to drag the victims further along the

SYDNEY SINAI DEMONSTRATION

In Sydney, Australia, on November 11, over 800 people demonstrated against the proposed decision to commit Australian troops to the U.S.-sponsored Sinai Force. An "ad-hoc Committee Against Australian Troops in Sinai (CAATS)" representing peace, environmental, student, left-wing and Arab groups organised the rally. November 11 was chosen as it is a memorable day for most Australians, commemorating

Australian people say: "No Troops to Sinai"



Armistice Day, which is the commemoration of the slaughter of Australians by the Turks at Gallipoli, in World War I; and then more recently it was the date of the overthrow of the Labour Government by the conservative Liberal Party in 1975. The Labour leader Whitlam had an ambiguous policy on the Middle East conflict in contrast to the present Prime Minister, Fraser, who openly supports the U.S.A. and Israel

Three speakers addressed the rally: Tom Uren, Labour Member of Parliament, Elizabeth Kirkby, an Australian Democratic politician, and Khalil Homs from the United Palestinian Workers. Uren urged the rally to remember Vietnam and that Australia's 13-year military commitment began in circumstances similar to the Sinai commitment. Elizabeth Kirkby quoted a poll conducted earlier in the year by a Sydney newspaper in which 72% of Australians polled were opposed to the proposed commitment. This opposition stems from Australia's costly involvement in Vietnam.

The mood of the rally was more clearly reflected in the two main chants of the marchers — "No more Vietnams, No Troops to Sinai" and "Hell No, We Won't Go, Victory to the PLO." PLO songs were sung and PLO flags were dominant — mainly carried by two groups — the United Palestinian Workers and the Australian Palestinian Association. A small group of Zionists gathered near the microphones but failed to disrupt the speeches.

bloody Camp David road, disregarding its complete political deadlock.

Above all the Palestinian problem, lying at the pivot of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the resulting manifold destabilization of the region, remains totally unsolved. The "autonomy" force proves to serve simply as a cover for extended Israeli occupation, repression and settlement in all the occupied Arab territories in the West Bank, Gaza, Golan and southern Lebanon. In the meantime, the Zionist megalomaniacs suggest to "annihilate the PLO" in Lebanon (Israeli ambassador to the U.S. Moshe Arens) or to "expel the Palestinians" from there (Israeli delegate to the UN Yehoda Blum; both on February 24, *Agence France Presse*). But where to? Into gas chambers?

This is the sort of "peace" to be policed by the U.S. and NATO/EEC troops now invading Sinai.

It becomes clearer with every day, that like Israel, the United States' Middle East "policy" is not at all interested in establishing any kind of true peace and stability in this region so vital for the entire world. Instead the U.S. government, in collusion with Zio-

nist Israel, foments and exploits destabilization in the Arab countries, above all to prepare the ground for U.S. military penetration into the area, in addition to promote further Israeli expansion. The U.S. is not trying to find any constructive and just political solution, but tries to capitalize on contradictory military commitments, aggression, and dangerously spreading conflicts.

Objectively, this policy runs in direct contradiction to European interests and those of other "allies" of the U.S.. Other than the present U.S. government the European people must be interested in reasonable political solutions in the Middle East, in peace and stability, for economic and strategic reasons, in order to save their trade and energy supply links there, and prevent the dangerous repercussions which any military confrontation and explosion will directly have in Europe. Maybe some French and other Western European government brains still hedge the illusion, that by conceding NATO's participation in the U.S. Sinai operation, they could influence and "moderate" the aggressive and militaristic line of present U.S. and Israeli foreign policy. This of course is rather naive. The result will just be that they will all the more be dragged into military adventures.

The true purpose of the Sinai force became clear, when it was announced in mid-February, that in the context of the Sinai corps, 600 U.S. paratroopers of the 28th airborne division, belonging to the U.S. "Rapid Deployment Forces", would be stationed on the islands of Sanafir and Tiran facing Sharm el-Sheikh at the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba in southern Sinai, apparently in addition to the basic U.S. contingent. Troops from the unit played a key role in the "Bright Star" desert exercises staged in Egypt toward the end of last year.

ITALY TO BACK UP U.S. INTERVENTION IN MIDDLE EAST?

The following report on an increased Italian involvement in the U.S. military threats to the Middle East was published in the London-based *8 Days* magazine on February 27:

"The Italian government has assured Washington of its readiness to host the 100,000-strong Rapid Deployment Force now being organised in the U.S. for deployment mainly in the Middle East, foreign office sources in Rome confirmed to *8 Days*.... Previous secret accords with the Americans were signed under the premiership of Francesco Cossiga, granting the U.S. army bases in southern Italy and civilian facilities in several regions. Rome has also accepted Cruise missiles in Sicily and Italian participation in the Sinai peacekeeping force.

"U.S. experts are already busy preparing facilities for the task force. The headquarters will most probably be at Gaeta, near Naples, which is Nato's and the U.S. Sixth Fleet's main port in the Mediterranean. Subsidiary bases for the task force will be located in southern Italy, in Sicily and Apulia. Defence Minister Lelio Lagorio is due to visit Washington to discuss with Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger the technical details of the new level of military cooperation.

"Meanwhile *8 Days* has learnt that the bulk of Italy's contribution to the Sinai force will be a fleet of three 405-tonne minesweepers, each with a crew of 85. The ships will arrive to patrol a section of the Suez Canal towards the end of April.

"The Italian peace movement is preparing demonstrations against both the Cruise missiles and the Sinai force. When word gets round of the new RDF guests from the U.S. the movement is likely to step up its campaign.

Commenting on the plan in the *Jerusalem Post*, the Israeli military expert Hirsch Goodman wrote: "The presence of 600 frontline American troops just hours from the Gulf States, Israel, the Nile, Sudan and Jordan, could serve to deter Soviet expansion in the region, as well as to provide a stabilizing influence."

All this, of course, has nothing to do with "peace" or "stability" in Sinai, nor anywhere else in the region. It just aims, according to the Pentagon strategists, at "projecting U.S. power" around the globe, and pursuing exclusive U.S. imperialist interests. They should not be astonished that this will eventually meet with the resistance of *all* the cheated people in the area.

The "multinational" anti-UN corps that the U.S. government is sticking together in Sinai is yet further proof that it wants to harness NATO for its worldwide aggressive ambitions. It is not by accident, that after the declared EEC participation in the Sinai expedition, the first major NATO Naval Exercises in the Caribbean were announced in late February. From March 8 to 18, vessels from Canada, Britain, West Germany and Holland are for the first time expected to join U.S. warships to back up the junta regimes of Central America in their terror warfare against their own suffering people.

"The whole world is the subject of NATO", U.S. Secretary of State Haig boasted on February 2, 1981, in an interview with the West German magazine "Der Spiegel". It's a world certainly not of peace but of aggression, bloody occupation and spreading war.

NO TROOPS FOR SINAI!

ISRAEL'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS IN BEIRUT

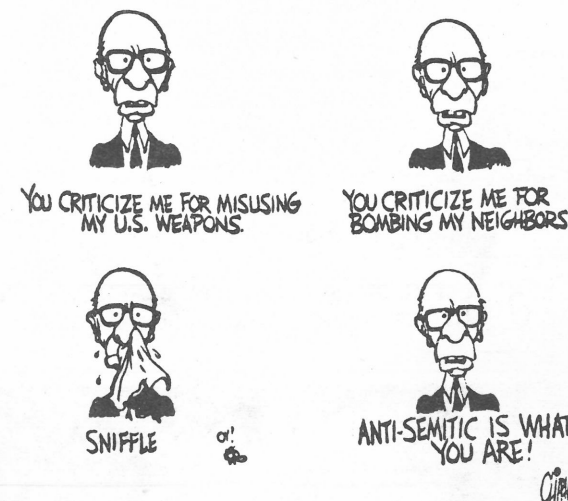
Zionist propaganda's latest example of the policy of blackmail, threats and psychological terrorism in information is its propaganda campaign against Western correspondents and newsmen in Beirut, whom it accuses of being subjected to Palestinian and Syrian terrorisation, which influences their reporting as foreign journalists from Beirut. This organised propaganda campaign has been stirred up by the Director of the Israeli Press Office in Jerusalem, Zev Chafets in remarks to the *New York Times* correspondent in Tel Aviv David Shieler. These were published in the *International Herald Tribune* on February 10, 1982. The Zionist information official alleges that, as a result of this pressure and terrorisation against Western correspondents, Israel's image for world public opinion has been damaged or has suffered. American-born Chafets criticised the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *BBC* and the American television network *ABC*.

Chafets concentrated his attack on *ABC* because, as he claimed, it broadcast a television interview with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat which Chafets described as a "respectful" interview or encouraging respect. Chafets went on to accuse the television network of having broadcast a two-part filmed report on the PLO portraying it as "rather benevolent, moderate and not terrorist. He also attacked *ABC* for broadcasting a film on Israeli treatment of Arab Palestinians in the West Bank, which he said was an "intellectually dishonest" film, accusing it of "not showing the Israeli side".

The PLO Research Centre's bulletin of monitored Israeli radio broadcasts on 18 and 19 February quoted the same person, Zev Chafets, as saying that "an anti-Israeli tone prevailed" over the *ABC* programme in question. Chafets added that "Western news media are affected by pressures of a violent nature from the terrorists' organisations in Beirut."

The U.S. *Time* and *Newsweek* magazines helped to spread this propaganda campaign in their issues of the same week, dated March 1. *Time* published a photograph of Chafets in his office, quoting in the caption one of his statements that "they have allowed the thugs their victory". *Newsweek* published an article with a photograph of Chairman Arafat sitting with foreign journalists, captioned: "Is he winning the Mideast propaganda war?"

The articles in both American magazines, *Time* and *Newsweek* quote the statements of Chafets



launching a propaganda war against those Western journalists and news agencies who try to be objective. He cites about them. He mentions incidents involving the arrest of some foreign journalists who went to Damour after midnight without a permit, after reports of an Israeli landing at Damour and Naameh. These journalists had been at a party when they decided to go to cover the event. They were arrested by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (General Command), but released after their identities had been checked. The fact is that the P.F.L.P. (GC) treated them well. In any case, there is a question which must be asked, namely: do the Israelis allow foreign correspondents to move about among them as freely as they do in Lebanon? Of course not. He also cites an incident in which an *ABC* correspondent called Sean Toolan was killed. All the Western correspondents in Beirut know that this man was not killed for being a journalist, but because of his intimate relations with some married women. That is, the reason for him being killed were personal.

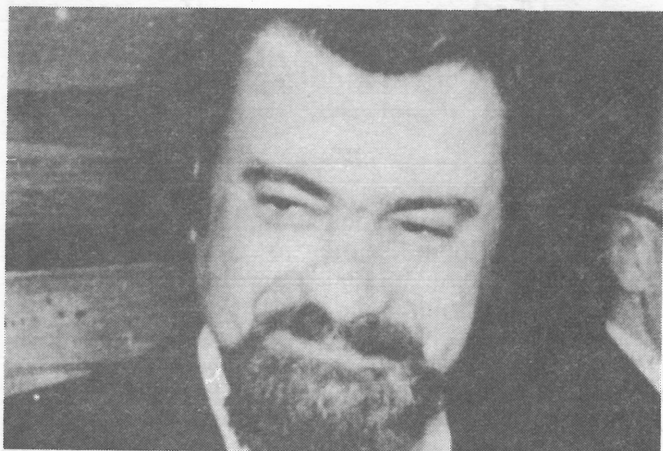
Who is the Real Intimidator?

The incidents cited by Chafets have nothing to do with the PLO. The important thing is that the Western journalists have begun to defend themselves, and a wave of strong indignation has come over them. The head of *ABC's* News and Sports Section, Roone Arledge replied by describing Chafets's accusations as an "insult" and "utter nonsense." The well-known British journalist David Hirst said in the same *Newsweek* article that "the PLO goes out of its way to protect journalists." *Washington Post* correspon-

dent Edward Cody said: "you do not have to fear the PLO when you write about Palestinian affairs."

The *New York Times* correspondent in Beirut, John Kifner published an article in the *International Herald Tribune* on the subject, to the effect that the P.L.O. "has functioned more as a protector of journalists than as an intimidator."² In the same article he quotes senior American diplomatic officials as freely acknowledging that their embassy could not function without Palestinian protection.

The fact is that this orchestrated campaign is not directed by Chafets alone. That is, it does not reflect



Ben-Elissar: a man with no moral scruples

his personal views. This subject was discussed in the Israeli Knesset. It was brought up by Eliahu Ben Elissar, Chairman of the Knesset's Defence and Foreign Affairs Committee and Yehuda Ben Meir, Deputy Foreign Minister and one of the leaders of the National Religious Party.³ They spoke of what they called the terrorism to which Western journalists living in Lebanon and Syria are subjected. This, they allege, is the reason why Israel's image in the Western press is presented in an erroneous manner. Ben Meir said that the time has come to break what he termed the conspiracy of silence. By that he meant that the actions of "terrorism" against Western journalists must be exposed. This means that the campaign is coordinated and orchestrated.

Journalists concerned have said that this was nothing new to them. In the past, the Israelis engaged in such practices against individual journalists, that is they would demand the dismissal or transfer of a particular journalist or correspondent from one part to another. Now they are launching a mass campaign against all journalists and news agencies.

This shows that the Zionists have begun to lose their nerve because the facts have started to come out and the attractiveness of the Zionist propaganda machine has begun to fade. The fact is that this is a new form of psychological terrorism by Zionist propaganda against the Western news agencies, a new form of blackmail and threats, one of the well-known methods of Zionist propaganda.

The purpose of this campaign is to stop foreign correspondents from writing any objective articles about the Palestinians and make them return to their former line of constant praise for Israel regardless of defects, arrogance, expansionism and fascist practices against Palestinian citizens under occupation.

Diversion from Israeli Aggression and Censorship

Furthermore, foreign press correspondents covering Palestine and Middle East events from both Beirut and occupied Palestine suspect two concrete aims behind the present Israeli propaganda campaign:

First: Foreign correspondents working in Israel are worried that the campaign is a diversive prelude to even stricter censorship and control over foreign pressmen trying to cover the increasing turmoil in the West Bank, the Gaza and the recently annexed Golan Heights. That worry appeared to be justified when Israel denied the press access to the Golan Heights, where the Syrian inhabitants are continuing their desperate strike in protest against the Israeli annexation. On February 27, 1982, the *Foreign Press Association* (FPA) in Israel, in advertisements in Israeli newspapers, rebuffed the accusations made by Israeli propaganda officials, adding that the association condemned "anywhere in the world" "any effort however subtle to undermine our continuing determination to report without hindrance or harassment all the news our members see fit to cover."

Secondly: "Foreign pressmen in the Lebanese capital have suggested that the campaign, launched over two weeks ago and still going strong, is meant to discredit the foreign press in Lebanon, which has been the target of Israeli attacks for the past decade, ... and thus cushion the blow of their coverage of an approaching Israeli attack. ... Some, as Edward Cody (*Washington Post*) and Peter Ruff (*BBC*) acknowledged, that this could be a "preemptive attack" on the press as a prelude to another Israeli invasion of the south. Others are saying that this is Israel's way of undoing what the Western press had done to its image with the worldwide coverage of the bombing of Beirut last summer and, more recently, the no-holds-barred *ABC* report on the West Bank" (Beirut *Monday Morning*, March 1, 1982)

References:

1. *Newsweek*, Who is Afraid of the P.L.O.? March 1, 1982, P. 49.
2. *International Herald Tribune*, February 25, 1982.
3. *International Herald Tribune* Press Issue Raised in the Knesset, February 25, 1982.

"THE PROBLEM IS THAT THEY DON'T LIKE THE TRUTH"

The following comments made by foreign press correspondents on the recent Israeli propaganda attack were published in the Beirut weekly *Monday Morning* on March 1, 1982:

"They are maintaining that we journalists in Beirut misreport events in a way which is unfavorable to the Israelis; in other words, that we exaggerate the barbarism of Israeli military operations simply because if we don't do that we will be subject to Palestinian intimidation. That is complete nonsense as far as I am concerned."



The Guardian's David Hirst

"A man like (Israeli Prime Minister) Menachem Begin, not to mention his entourage, would have no moral scruples about proving his point by using one of his numerous agents in this country to assassinate a foreign correspondent, if someone else doesn't do it for him."

David Hirst, British *Guardian*



"It is a campaign to discredit us for the wrong reasons. We do work in an unstable situation where there are a lot of different factions with guns, but the Israelis are twisting that to say that we're not reporting the news. That is not true. The problem is that we are reporting the news, and they don't like it."

John Kifner, *New York Times*

"Since I am not in Jerusalem, I don't know what the Israelis' motives are, but I would guess that what they are trying to do is undermine the credibility of the people who report on their attack on the south and Beirut last July. I guess they would be glad to see the credibility of correspondents here undermined in advance of a future attack, to cast a shadow of doubt on any reporting of such an attack. Whether they're thinking ahead and trying to undermine our credibility in advance I don't really know, but it makes sense."

Edward Cody, *Washington Post*

WAR AND PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

REAGAN'S M.E. POLICY: A RACIST COMMITMENT TO ARAB "INFERIORITY"

"I am determined to see that Israel's qualitative technological edge is maintained," U.S. President Ronald Reagan wrote in his notorious letter to the Zionist Prime Minister Begin on February 16, 1982. It was widely understood that this letter, issued after Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights, the brutal bomb raids against Baghdad and Beirut of last year and the daily escalating Israeli threats against all its neighbours, gave the Israeli militarists another *carte blanche* for further aggression against the Palestinian people and the Arab world.

However, not all have noticed the explicitly racist note in this latest letter of a man supposed to be the leader of the United States and the Western alliance: By committing himself unconditionally to the "qualitative technological edge" of "Israel" — of course compared to the Arab world — the U.S. President has clearly committed U.S. Middle East policy, U.S. technological and economic dealings and investments in Arab countries, and the many arms sales there, to maintaining an overall "qualitative inferiority" of the "Arabs".

The world should be grateful to the U.S. President for his latest, racist clarification of the aims of U.S. "even-handed" Middle East policy.

PRAVDA: U.S. GOVERNMENT NOT INTERESTED IN PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

In a comment on February 19, 1982, on the increasingly explosive situation in the Middle East, the Soviet newspaper *Pravda* said that present U.S. policy in the region was not really interested in peace and stability there, but in exploiting dangerous conflicts for the sake of exclusive U.S. and Israeli interests. Over thirty years have passed since the beginning of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the Middle East, like before, remains one of the most dangerous sources of tension in the world, *Pravda* noted. Of course, there are many reasons why the Mid-Eastern crisis has lasted for so many years. However, there is every ground to believe that the main reason is the policy of the United States.

Having taken the line of eliminating international detente, the present U.S. administration

is, to a greater extent than previous ones, trying to fasten various regional conflicts, particularly the Arab-Israeli conflict, to its global policies subordinated to the struggle against the Soviet Union and its allies. Washington is trying to "control" the development of such conflict situations in the interests of its power confrontation with the socialist community and the world national liberation, anti-imperialist movement.

Proclaiming itself to be the protector of Western oil interests in the Middle East, *Pravda* says, "the United States is trying to use the situation to fasten its European partners and Japan even closer to itself, to head off any attempts on their part to seek independent solutions to numerous foreign policy problems, to keep them on a short leash. It would like to keep the Camp David deal alive at any cost, a deal that is totally bankrupt and viewed by the whole world as a means for altering the situation in the Middle East in the interests of Israel and the United States, so as to use it as an instrument for undermining the realistic road toward stable peace. The United States deliberately steers the Mid-Eastern conflict away from a just settlement.

"Suffice it to recall the events that followed the signing of the Israeli-Egyptian separate treaty to understand the indisputability of the conclusion that the Camp David accords have nothing in common with a just and durable peace in the Middle East," the paper concluded.

CALL FOR RECONSIDERING ARAB TRADE RELATIONS

The Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Arab countries has called for reconsidering relations with the United States, which encourages Israel's aggressive activities in the Middle East. A statement of the Federation released in Kuwait on February 17, 1982, says that similar measures should be applied to other Western countries backing Tel Aviv's aggressive policy. The document urges the Arab governments to cement links with friendly countries siding with the Arabs in their struggle against the expansionist policy of the Israeli ruling circles and for ensuring the legitimate national rights of the Arab people of Palestine.

ARAB PROTEST AGAINST EURO- PARLIAMENT COMMITTEE SESSION IN JERUSALEM

The provocative decision made by the Political Committee of the European Parliament in Strasbourg to hold a session in occupied Arab Jerusalem next May, has triggered a wave of protests in the Arab world. The decision announced by the Committee which is dominated by pro-Zionist elements, follows an invitation issued by the Israeli Knesset. It comes at a time when the Israeli leadership is daily escalating its policy of military threats and blackmail against its Arab neighbours. The only practical purpose, if there is any, of the odd convening of a European Parliament committee in occupied Arab Jerusalem is to grant legitimization to the continued occupation and Judaization following the aggressive annexation of the Holy City by Israel, which has been unanimously condemned by the world community and even the U.N. Security Council.

It cannot but encourage the Israeli militarists to carry out further expansion at the expense of the Palestinian and Arab people.

Representatives of many Arab countries and parliamentary bodies have unanimously condemned the provocative step undertaken by the pro-Zionist faction within the European Parliament. The Head of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU), Kamel Al-As'ad, also speaker of the Lebanese Parliament, has condemned the move. In a letter of protest sent on February 23 to the European Parliament on behalf of the Lebanese Parliament and the APU, Al-As'ad said that this meeting completely contradicts the European Community's decisions and policy of condemning violations of international resolutions. He added that the Committee's decision is an arbitrary act which would give justification to the Israeli occupation of Jerusalem.

The Parliament of Kuwait and the Government of the United Arab Emirates on February 22 condemned the European Parliament's move. On February 23, the Jordanian Senate, in an extraordinary session, denounced it as "an aggressive and biased undertaking" and underlined that it violated the resolutions of the United Nations and other international institutions.

In a statement issued by the council of Arab ambassadors to Spain on February 20, the Arab representatives pointed out that Israel is only

trying to obtain recognition of its Jerusalem annexation, which has been declared null and void by the United Nations Security Council in accordance with international law and world public opinion.

PRESIDENT ASSAD: FRANCE UNABLE TO MEDIATE IN MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT

Syrian President Hafez al-Assad on March 1, criticised the visit of French President Mitterand to Israel. In an interview broadcast by French RTL Radio and published also in *Le Monde*, the Syrian head of state declared: "We don't think that President Mitterand's visit to Israel conforms to the role of France, may it be socialist or not. We don't see that it could result in anything positive concerning the role of France in the Middle East and French-Arab relations." President Assad warned that Mitterand's visit to Israel was sanctioning Israel's latest annexation of the Golan Heights. "General de Gaulle took a still well-remembered position when, noticing that Israel was the aggressor towards the Arabs, clearly said so."

The Syrian President concluded by stating that France could hardly play the role of a mediator between the Arabs and Israel, "for Israel is an aggressor country which does not respect the opinions of other countries if they don't correspond to its intentions."

DE CUELLAR: MIDDLE EAST DEEPLY PREOCCUPIES U.N.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez De Cuellar, in opening the meeting of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People on February 15, said that the question of the Middle East deeply preoccupies the world organisation. The Assembly had made clear that the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people must be taken fully into account in evolving a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement to that question. The Secretary-General said in his opening statement that the failure thus far to achieve such a settlement could not be a cause for despair or inactivity.

WOMEN OF THE GOLAN

by Joan Mandell

(This article was first published by the Palestinian English language weekly *Al Fajr*, Jerusalem, on September 5, 1981.)

She whispered that there was something she must tell me. Her husband was arrested several nights before and no charge had yet been brought. All the men in the room had an assessment of the political situation in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, but Wafa had been in the kitchen preparing coffee for the guests.

"We women must force a change — give ourselves the chance to speak," she says. It is the fourth time that her husband, Munir, has been arrested and Wafa wrote a poem after he was taken this time:

They came to you, O my beloved Golani

They came to take the dearest of what you have.

.....

Rather than feeling sad or crying

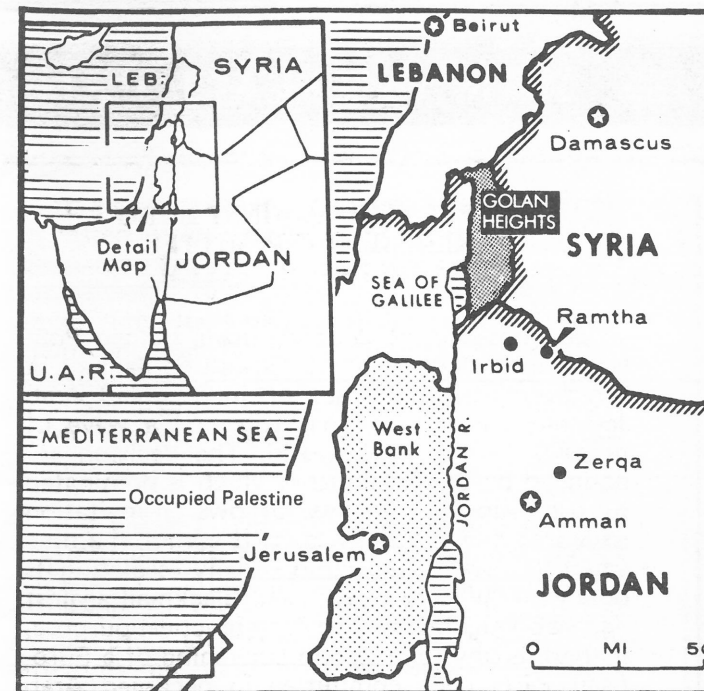
We were proud and full with challenge

Because we love our homeland We expect to be imprisoned.

Women in the Golan Heights have resisted accepting Israeli identity cards and defended the men who have been arrested for "anti-Israeli" activity. But after Wafa's husband and three other men were arrested and five Golan leaders were put on trial at Ramle military court, no women were among the hundred protestors from the Golan.

Many of the men at the Ramle sit-in responded that "women might get hurt." Even the less traditional young men, who sat eating the sandwiches their mothers had prepared, saw nothing amiss in the absence of women.

Amali, wife of one of those arrested, says that as long as the woman is in the house, her growth is retarded and she is just the shadow of a man — her husband or her father. When she goes outside for work, she is liberated economically, then she can be liberated socially and politically.



Amali, who completed five grades in school, and was married at the age of 16, jots down essays on education, politics and health in a student's copy-book to read to her three children. She is "in the house" but tries to keep herself politically aware by reading and discussing and encourages her daughters to be more independent than she.

"In my youth, there was no opportunity for women to study and be aware politically. Now that some of us are trying to change things, we run into trouble from our men and from the military occupation. There have been attempts by women in the occupied Golan Heights to publish a magazine, to hold lectures, set up a club or even a library to raise women's consciousness — all were forbidden by the military authorities."

Change Coming

Things are slowly changing. Before 1967, only three girls had graduated from high school. During the '70s the number of girls enrolled in school rose to almost equal the number of boys. The first woman from Golan to enter university is now studying Arabic language at Haifa University.

There are few employment possibilities in the Golan. Women have not left to work in Israel, as have many of the men, apparently because of two main factors — a relatively prosperous economy, and the conservative restrictions of a religion-based tradition-bound society. The Golan economy is characterised by low-labour intensive agriculture (mostly fruit trees) and an absence of industrial development. There are no factories and few offices; there are no women professionals — doctors or lawyers. Teaching is the only accepted 'female' occupation.



Women of the Golan: We hate the occupation

Many of the women employed as teachers are, according to local residents, unqualified, especially in the lower grades. "We badly need a teachers' training centre," says Amali.

"We have two women teachers in Mas'ada. One can't hear well and the other has trouble speaking. But both have fathers who carry Israeli identity cards," adds another young woman. "My daughter refused, along with other classmates, to participate in the celebration of Israeli 'independence' day. One of the teachers threatened to expel her from school," she said.

Women's Issues

Women are especially concerned at the poor level of education, lack of classrooms — many schools are run out of garages and kindergarten children play in the streets — and the lack of health care facilities.

There is no hospital for the 15,000 inhabitants of the occupied Golan Heights — just a clinic that dispenses childhood immunisations and check-ups for pregnant women, once or twice weekly. To give birth in a hospital a woman must travel a long distance to Safad. Though transportation is costly, most people go to Nazareth or even Nablus for medical treatment. "We pay a lot to the Kupat Holim medical insurance, but get little treatment in return. I was sick for a year, and the appropriate medicines were not available here. The closest pharmacy is an hour away in Kiryat Shmoneh," says one woman.

There was a hospital newly built in Majdal Shams in 1964, but not yet furnished by 1967 when the military governor took over the building for his headquarters. (Four years ago he moved to Mas'ada.)

Several women admitted that although the women stand strong alongside the men on the identity card issue, many still lack political understanding. Of the estimated 500 Syrians arrested in the Golan Heights in the 14 years of occupation, only one woman is remembered. Amira Abu Jabal, now in her mid-20s,

was arrested for one day several years ago for raising a Syrian flag. "People were very proud of her. But as a counter," another woman points out, "collaborators spread rumours about politically conscious patriotic women and girls so that their families would be against them."

(This article was first published by the Palestinian English weekly *Al-Fajr*, Jerusalem, on September 5, 1981)

"SOMETHING TO PROVE THAT WE HATE THE OCCUPATION"

(by a Woman in the Occupied Golan Heights)

The time: midnight

The date: the end of May, beginning of June

We were asleep, enjoying pleasant dreams about freedom.

Suddenly we were awakened.

A gang of occupying soldiers

Who?

Open up!

We opened the door.

They came in, pointing their guns, a fierce look in their eyes.

We said, you?!

Enemies of humanity —

You, the sons of Zionism, in

the name of God, what do you want from us?

You, son of the cursed Balfour.

Put on your clothes!

They barked to the owner of the house.

This is a warrant for your arrest. Listen.

They read it.

Sign your name here.

Put your clothes on.

He went to the toilet. They followed him, watched him, as if he was going to get a bomb.

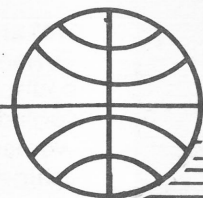
...Our looks were like bombs, our feelings were like bullets, our morale was high.

Soon they took him away, after they had searched everywhere hoping to find something to prove that we hate the occupation.

Something to prove that we know that they are stepping on our rights.

They can imprison him, but they cannot imprison the feelings of his wife and his son.

We are upset about his arrest, but we respect his determination and his pride.



U.S. CARRIBEAN DOCTRINE THREATENS CENTRAL AMERICA

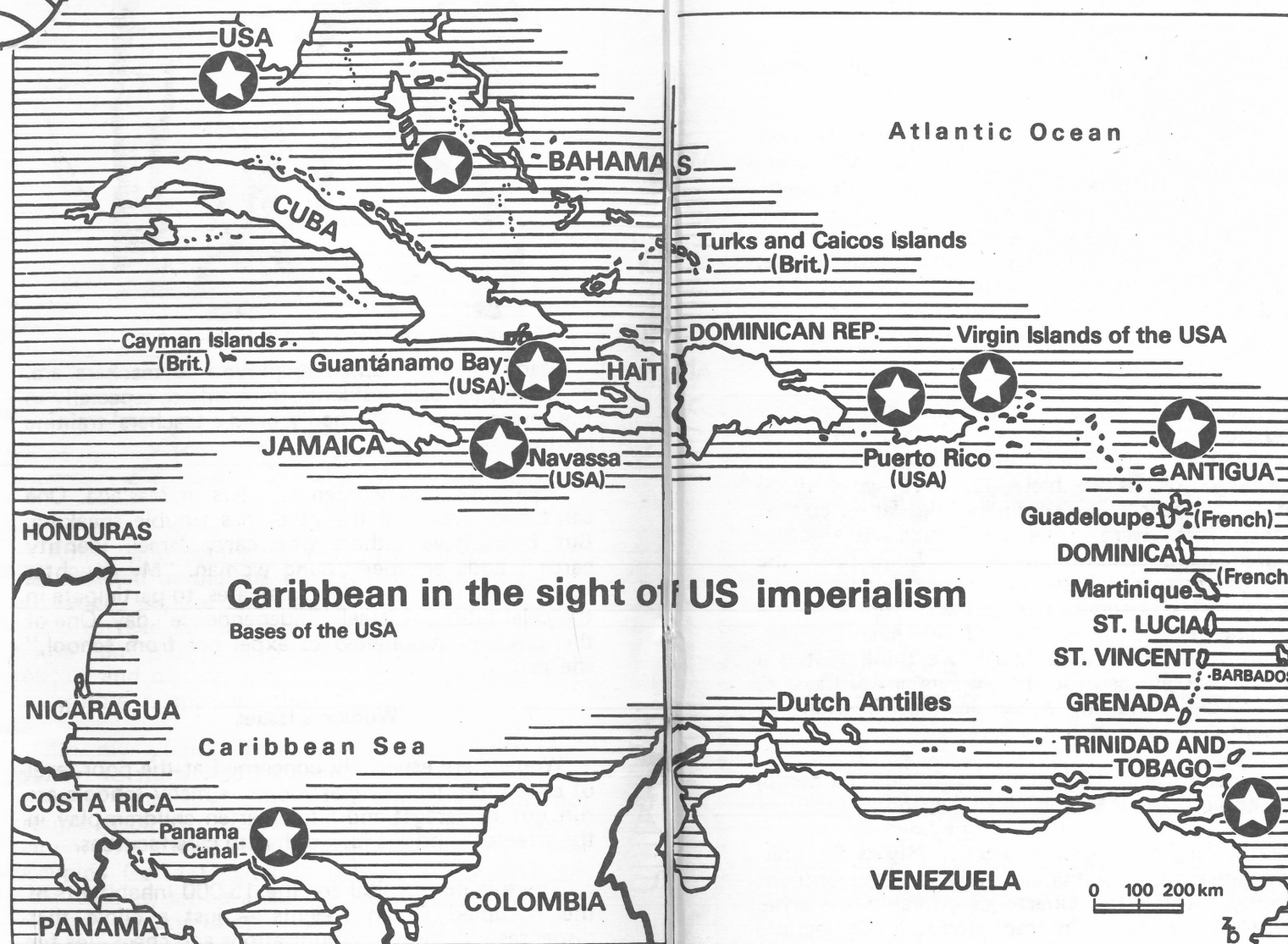
The U.S. administration is giving greater scope to the campaign of blackmail and threats to socialist Cuba and other states of Central America, whose independent policies arouse the fury of Washington.

As the newspaper *Washington Post*, reported at the beginning of February, President Reagan has endorsed an extensive programme for subversive actions against independent countries of the region, against Cuba and Nicaragua in the first place. Within the framework of the programme, the White House, in addition to a whole number of economic and propaganda measures, intends to urge the allied puppet regimes to carry out political and para-military operations against those countries. One of the regimes which the U.S. tries to involve is Argentina, whose military junta has long been opposed to leftist activities in the Western Hemisphere and which is said to be training as many as 1,000 men for this reason.

Meanwhile, the United States is nurturing plans to effect the so-called internal destabilization of Nicaragua or, in other words, is planning to overthrow the legitimate government of that country. Thus, the CIA has worked out a secret plan according to which Washington intends to create seats of internal opposition in Nicaragua, as well as to knock together action groups designed to carry out various subversive actions and sabotage inside the country. The CIA is to allocate \$19 million for the implementation of this plan by which the United States hopes to increase its influence on developments in El Salvador. The American news agency AP reports that it was said in Congress that if the Sandinist Liberation Front in Nicaragua lost power, the situation in El Salvador would clarify automatically, and so, as many difficulties as possible should be made for the government in Nicaragua.

The CIA has also worked out several scenarios which envisage the possible use of U.S. servicemen for conducting paramilitary actions against Cuban targets. At the same time, the White House has instructed the Pentagon to prepare plans for the use of American troops to counteract the policy of Cuba and Nicaragua. One such plan is a course towards putting direct pressure on Cuba. Such pressure can be exercised in the form of establishing a sea blockade of Cuba or delivering air strikes at the island.

All these conceptions and scenarios are part and parcel of Reagan's so-called Caribbean doctrine, which envisages an increase in U.S. military presence in the region with a view to directly intimidating states which pursue a course independent of Washington.



MORE BATTALIONS TRAINED IN THE UNITED STATES

The U.S. administration intends to train another four to five battalions of the anti-popular Duarte junta, preparing them for their terror campaign against the Salvadorean people. This emerges from what a spokesman of the Defence Department has said. At present some 1,600 soldiers and officers of the regime are getting comprehensive training at U.S. military bases of Fort Bragg and Fort Benning, where they are drilled by the notorious killer units of the Green Berets.

According to the *Washington Post*, also Lieutenant-General Wallace Nutting, commander-in-chief of the Panama-based U.S. southern command, after his visit in El Salvador has come to the conclusion that despite the additional military aid granted to the junta more would probably be necessary. As for the

mercenaries, the general appreciated their ability to "quickly absorb the equipment and the training." In order to do more than merely replace what has been destroyed by the Salvadorean liberation fighters, the supply of additional helicopters and fighter aircraft has to be prepared by the U.S. government, the general said.

At the same time there is a growing protest against American interference in El Salvador inside and outside the United States. On February 22, more than 3,000 residents of the university town of Boulder (Colorado) in the U.S. have protested against the U.S. intervention in El Salvador. At a rally, congressman Timothy Wirth stressed that there was no excuse for the U.S. government militarily supporting the junta in El Salvador. Other speakers expressed their fear that the intervention in El Salvador would lead to a Vietnam-like situation.

At the beginning of February, thousands of Ita-

lians gathered for a rally in Rome to demand "Hands off El Salvador" and that the government sever diplomatic relations with the Durate regime. An appeal by 37 Italian intellectuals condemns the brutal terror in El Salvador and U.S. support for the Duarte junta. The regime "enjoys full support from the Reagan administration which seizes every opportunity to pose as a defender of "western civilization" and which recently trebled already substantial military aid in spite of another horrifying massacre in El Salvador," the appeal says.

DIEGO GARCIA IS POWDER-KEG IN INDIAN OCEAN

The United States is preparing for chemical warfare in the Indian Ocean. According to the daily *Indian National Herald* the 82nd airborne division of the U.S. army is being trained in chemical warfare techniques at present. This division belongs to the Rapid Deployment Force, which was set up especially for deployment in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf region. It was chosen because of its effective handling of chemical agent Orange in the war against Vietnam.

Washington regards Diego Garcia base as a most important link in its chain of bases, as the world's most important deposits of petroleum, uranium, gold, tin, diamonds, and other minerals of strategic importance can be reached from this island. In the past few years Diego Garcia has been modernized and built up, and is today one of Washington's biggest naval and air bases.

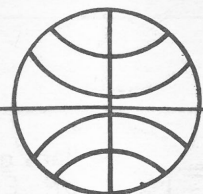
The aggressive plans of the Pentagon are meeting with growing resistance from ever broader forces. India especially feels that these plans are an extreme threat to its security.

NEW REPRESSIVE MEASURES IN SOUTH AFRICA

The death of the South African doctor and trade union leader Neil Aggett has again called attention to the brutality of the apartheid state, says a statement issued by the African National Congress (ANC).

"The South African racists have embarked on a course of destroying our people physically and morally. We call on all peoples to prevent the apartheid regime from committing more murders." Thozamile Gaweta, a trade union leader arrested by racist police in Johannesburg early last December, is in grave danger now. More than 500 people have been arrested since May 1981, according to information from the ANC. "It is time to impose a complete embargo on racist South Africa, including arms and oil boycotts," the statement added.

At the same time new repressive measures against the people are currently being discussed by the South



African Parliament. The basis for discussion is the 250-page security bill submitted by the ruling National Party of Prime Minister Pieter Botha who has demanded that it be adopted in the name of "the defence of western civilization in Africa." The bill, which is above all directed against the growing activities of the African National Congress and the Communist Party of South Africa, provides for indefinite arrest of anybody suspected of "terrorism". Demonstrations within 500 metres of law-courts, barracks, police posts and other places the regime considers strategic will be prohibited. A "Ministry for Law and Order" will be set up to coordinate these measures against the population. The new law will legalize telephone tapping and mail interception.

1982 DEFINITIVE YEAR IN EL SALVADOR

In an interview with Alejandro Montenegro, the People's Revolutionary Army's chief for the Guazapa zone, north of El Salvador, the commander said that



Murder: Duarte's domestic policy; U.S. foreign policy

they are determined to make 1982 the definitive year of their armed struggle against the ruling junta.

The stepped up U.S. military assistance of the past year has not produced one "strategic victory" by the government forces, and the guerrillas in the same period greatly improved their combat abilities. "We are the ones who are now determining the course of war," he said. "We are already in the definitive phase, and our interest now is to accelerate the war." He said that the United States was simply prolonging the outcome with its continued military aid for the fascist forces.

Alejandro Montenegro said that they were prepared to seek immediate negotiations. "But," he added, "when the United States in two weeks replaced the six planes we blew up, it obligated us to continue the war." The commando leader noted that all their rifles were American, which were either captured from government forces, bought on the black market or purchased directly from government officers. Asked if some of the arms did not come via Cuba and Nicaragua, as U.S. officials have charged, Alejandro Montenegro replied: "We think that is a political problem because the government of the U.S. is interested in having a political justification for intervention."

The commander said that they favoured a democratic and pluralistic society in El Salvador.

Meanwhile, the country's Human Rights Commission emphasized that the elections to a "constituent assembly" which the Duarte dictatorship has scheduled for March are in contradiction to all democratic norms. About half of all Salvadoreans entitled to vote have been driven into exile by the junta or are in camps, where they are exposed to junta control and reprisals.

The elections in El Salvador would neither be a settlement of the country's structural crisis nor an end to the civil war. The "elections" planned by the junta are a farcical spectacle, as the Salvadorean people's forces would have no chance to take part in the poll. This was emphasized by Silvia Martinez, a representative of the Farabundo Marti Liberation Movement at a meeting held in Havana in mid-February. The FMLN representatives attended the World Trade Union Congress there.

Babies' Milk Turned Into Bullets:

REAGAN SENDS AMERICAN ECONOMY OFF TO WAR

The Reagan Administration's decision to direct major government spending towards war production, arms sales and mammoth increases in military spending is already having a devastating impact on millions of poor and working people within the United States. U.S. Defence Secretary Weinberger for one, is not satisfied with the \$216 billion allotted in Reagan's 1983 budget for war spending and would like to see the military portion of the government's budget steadily increase over the next five years to reach



Today the dole; tomorrow the soup kitchen

nearly 50% of all government expenditures for a total amount of \$1.6 trillion.¹

Reagan has tried to sell his new militarism to the American people with the illusion that increased war spending and booming arms exports will create new jobs in a failing economy and add new employment opportunities in nonmilitary aspects of industry through the spinoff of new technological innovations derived from creating new sophisticated means of human destruction. The reality of the economic trends resulting from this policy is something else. In December, industrial production in the U.S. fell 2.1% for its lowest rate in 18 months. Press evaluations of the drop admit: "Defense production has typically been rising while other categories have been falling recently, buoyed by Reagan administration's push for increased military spending."² Factory utilization in

December dropped to one of its lowest levels since World War II and in the auto industry it was below 50%.³ There has been no spinoff and consumer production continues to crumble.

The human result of Reagan's militarization of the economy has been a sharp rise in unemployment which currently hovers at an official figure of 9%. In fact, unemployment has surpassed World War II figures as official statistics are skewed to exclude the number of workers who are so discouraged about the prospects of finding a job that they have given up looking.

Even conservative Congressional committeemen who noncritically breezed Reagan's first budget through Congress last year have discovered the devastating social impact of militarization this year. Members of the House Commerce Committee realized that for 1983: "Reagan will seek \$5-billion reduction

in health services, deep reductions in funds to control hazardous wastes, a huge shift from civilian energy needs to military nuclear programs..."⁴ To feed the Pentagon, Reagan has gone as far as to take milk from babies' mouths: "Mr. Reagan proposed to end the summer feeding program, which provides meals to children during the vacation period, and to eliminate the special milk program which provides milk at reduced prices to 1.6 million children."⁵ Reagan's war-mongering budget prompted the Children's Defense Fund in Washington to charge in February: "The Reagan administration is demanding more sacrifice from children than from any other group in American society with its proposed cuts in welfare, education, nutrition and other programs."⁶

A report from *Agence Presse France* on February 26 confirms some of the worst fears of the Children's

Defense Fund: "Texas, land of hope for unemployed Americans for several years, has had its turn to be affected by the economic crisis and the latest arrivals, not finding work, are reduced to abandoning their children, affirm the directors of several orphanages. The directors of the four largest orphanages in Dallas have indicated that they have received more and more requests from unemployed parents who have confessed to no longer having the means to feed their children, and even less to shelter them." The orphanages have had to open emergency shelters in the past two months to receive abandoned children."

Reaganomics may be well on its way to affirming some of Karl Marx's much debated theories about the declining social conditions for workers under capitalism. One of them is that workers suffer from increasing absolute impoverishment as a capitalist system continues. While Marx's critics claim that his theories apply largely only to the conditions of 19th century capitalist development in Europe, Reagan's policies may well be turning back the living standards of the poor and working people in the United States to 19th century conditions. One American economic commentator notes: "Early in November, the U.S. Census Bureau discovered 'the largest decline in *real income* in the post-World War II period and one of the largest increases in poverty since it started compiling statistics in the early 1960.'"

Indeed daily reports in the press begin to look exactly like the horrors that the 19th century English working class suffered and which were described by Marx in *Capital*. "One reads of the irritation of rich people in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., at seeing the poor eating from their dumps; the rich speak of spraying the garbage with poison; on that account. And one feels that somehow such an attitude is consistent with the policies of the Reagan administration."⁸

Reagan's plans for a "new federalism" has been described by one congressman as a thriving new "feudalism". And stories of feudal working conditions are beginning to also crop up in press accounts of the American economy under Reagan: "Slave labour has been uncovered in North Carolina, demonstrating the severe and worsening plight of migrant workers in the United States. Two workers told a federal trial in Raleigh, North Carolina that they picked potatoes for \$5 a week and two meals a day. They claim that one man was worked to death. They were held in a barn or unfurnished house at night and kept under constant watch."⁹

Slavery is not alone among the afflictions for the poor in the Reagan chamber of horrors, starvation is becoming a commonplace news story. The *New York Times* greeted the New Year with a screeching headline: "More Than 100,000 May Lose Food Aid In the City this Year."¹⁰ And soup kitchens are reaching



Buddy, can ya spare a dime?

their capacity in the Midwest: "The men and women who have lost their jobs in the area's worst industrial slide in decades are coming in ever greater numbers to sit on the worn benches of steamy soup kitchens in churches and community centres.... Nationally, the Salvation Army estimates that demand for its free meals is running 10 to 30 percent above last year's level, and conversations with the directors of such centres confirm the apparent pattern: the hungry crowds are younger, there are more families with children, and the parents cannot find work."¹¹

And housing? There is rapid growth in sprawling packed slums where the poor huddle in make-shift shelters. "The stereotype has it that even the poorest residents of big cities like Los Angeles enjoy the relative amenities of modest pastel bungalows cheered

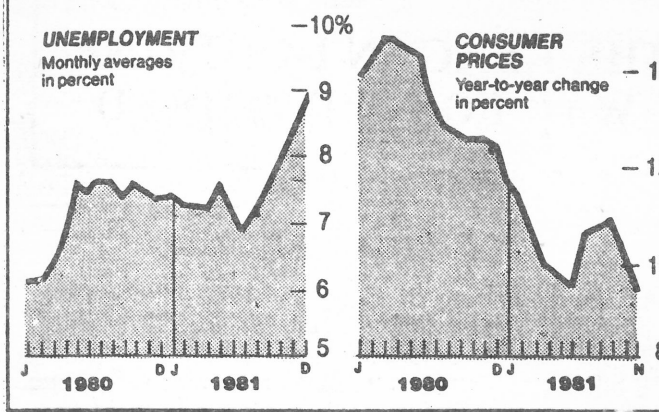
by tropical gardens. Today, however, along Los Angeles's Central Avenue in a black and Hispanic neighborhood less than three miles south of downtown, cardboard-thin shacks standing on dirt plots would appear uninhabitable except for laundry waving in the breeze."¹²

While the 10 million plus immigrant workers mostly from Mexico and Latin America are being impounded into slavery, the Black population, only slightly higher on the poverty scale, is deliberately programmed by the Reagan Administration to be wiped out of the economic system completely. "Mr. Reagan's budget cuts have hit hardest at minorities and the poor. His economic policies have produced 8.9 percent unemployment — a figure expected to hang above 9 percent in coming months — and that translates into 16.1 percent unemployment for blacks, a rate near record."¹³ A report issued by the New York City's Department of Employment in January finds, "a rise in the unemployment of blacks and other nonwhites from 29.2 percent in the 16 to 19 age bracket in 1974 to 41.8 percent in 1979. Then there was a drop to 36.6 percent as of March 1980, but an increase to 50.9 percent in March 1981."¹⁴ The grim statistics for unemployment of Black youth indicate the makings of a whole generation permanently relegated to a socially expendable class.

It's not only surplus labour which is creating profits for Reagan's business allies, now workers are being forced to pay directly from their own salaries to corporations as a bribe to keep their jobs. This trend is being assisted by trade unions themselves which are rapidly losing their membership and long ago gave up the idea that there are fundamental differences between workers and management. Contracts covering 4.5 million American workers are currently under negotiation but the main bargaining dispute is over how much workers wages should be cut. "Experts expect concessions to bring a transfer of millions of dollars from employees to employers, a situation that has not occurred since labour-management contract bargaining became a formalized institution in the 1960s and 1940s."¹⁵

The current economic state of affairs in the U.S. is currently being characterized in editorial cartoons by the figure of "Reaganhood". Unlike the traditional folk hero Robinhood, "Reaganhood" robs from the poor to give to the rich. It may seem incomprehensible how Reagan's budget policies could possibly devise schemes for extracting extra capital from the poorest levels of American society to give to American corporations, but here are some examples: In the field of healthcare, a year after Reagan took office, all government subsidy programs for the poor have been slashed. The result? "The Government spends as much on health care for the rich as it does for the poor when tax breaks for insurance and medical payments are taken into account, a Federal study said today."¹⁶ Even more incredible is this report: "Final housing officials want to count food stamps as part of the income of poor people, a step that would

Key Economic Signs After Reagan's First Year



The New York Times

increase rents for most of the eight million people living in federally subsidized housing. The rent increase would amount to at least 10 percent on the average, housing officials said."¹⁷

To date there has not been any mass movement in the U.S. which has begun to effectively challenge the effects of Reagan's militarization of the U.S. economy. The stories chronicled here are buried amidst glaring headlines in the U.S. press about tans on "free trade unions" and supposed military repression in Poland. The Reagan Administration has promised to regain America's military might which Reagan thinks was lost in Vietnam. Reagan is particularly fond of invoking wars of extermination in his rhetorical appeals to the American people. What is little noticed is that Reagan is currently waging a fierce war of extermination and it is within the United States itself against the poor and working people of the country.

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drag every country in the world into this global policy. Within the framework of imperialism's global strategy, the "national interests" of the U.S. will be further "defended" by the Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) of over 200,000 combat troops. (see *Palestine Information Bulletin* Vol. 8 No. 1)

These special units will be used for military aggression against any country deemed "harmful to U.S. interests" by the White House. The \$4 billion earmarked for this updated version of gunboat diplomacy is to be used to buy air and sea transports, refurbish overseas bases and maintain the U.S. Navy on the High Seas.

In 1983, RDF spending will include some \$722 million on prepositioning equipment and \$559 million on ships to transport it. To this must be added \$2.8 billion to improve long-range airlift capability, plus \$122.2 million for light-armoured vehicles and \$1 billion for AH-64 helicopters and 340 AV-8B VTOL aircraft. The number of operational aircraft carriers is to be increased to fifteen, to project U.S. firepower into any region of the globe.(15)

There are now U.S. bases in Egypt, Somalia, Kenya, Oman, Bahrain, South Africa, Australia, Latin America, and projected bases for Israel. The Pentagon planners have deployed nuclear missiles on Diego Garcia island in the Indian Ocean, which was illegally annexed from the state of Mauritius. The Indian Ocean is constantly patrolled by over 40 U.S. warships which carry nuclear warheads.

While spending billions of dollars on building up American intervention forces to threaten other countries into submission, the U.S. is also allocating billions to buttressing reactionary puppet regimes which carry out imperialist policy in their own localities. According to the German Democratic news agency *ADN* the U.S. has supplied El Salvador in the last year with \$126 million, Chile with \$354.3 million and over the last three years has given Israel about 6.1 billion dollars in military aid. It is worth noting that American development aid of some \$7 billion per annum is only one quarter the value of its arms transfers to other countries.(16)

A SPECTRE HAUNTING EUROPE

A spectre is haunting Europe, the spectre of Caspar Weinberger. The U.S. war minister has told NATO that they must boost their arms spending. He called on America's NATO allies to spend more on weapons and cut back on their trade with Moscow and Warsaw. Weinberger stated: "We may be forced to cope with Soviet aggression, or Soviet-inspired aggression, on several fronts."(17)

U.S. STRATEGIC FORCES

The U.S. strategic forces comprise: 1,053 intercontinental ballistic missile launchers (ICBMs),
411 bombers;
648 ballistic missile launchers in 40 submarines.

These can lift about 10,000 nuclear warheads of 50 kilotons to 10 megatons each at one launching. Altogether, including heavy bombers held in reserve, U.S. strategic offensive forces consist of 2,338 nuclear delivery vehicles, including 2,273 vehicles of intercontinental range and 65 medium-range bombers specially designed for operating in Europe.

The ground-based strategic missile forces comprise 550 Minuteman-3 launchers, 450 Minuteman-2 launchers and 33 Titan-2 launchers. At a single launch/sortie, these U.S. ICBMs can carry 2,153 nuclear warheads of 170 kilotons to 10 megatons each.

The sea-based strategic missile forces consist of 40 nuclear submarines armed with Trident-1 (216 launchers), Poseidon C-3 (304 launchers) and Polaris A-3 (128 launchers) missiles accounting for more than 50% of total strategic nuclear force load.

Units of the strategic nuclear force include 346 B-52 heavy bombers and 65 FB-111A medium-range bombers. The bulk of this strategic bomber force is based in the U.S. and on the Pacific island of Guam.

In addition, the U.S. has 20 aircraft carriers and 9 nuclear-powered missile cruisers. It is also significant that over 45% of the world's arms market is accounted for by the United States.

The above information is taken from, "Whence the Threat to Peace?" Military Publishing House, Moscow, 1982. The *International Herald Tribune* on January 19, 1982, writes that these figures concur with data from official U.S. publications and the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

NATO, at Washington's insistence, decided in May 1978 to ensure the increase in the military budgets of each member state by three percent annually for the foreseeable future. West Germany's 1981 defence spending has already exceeded this target. It boosted arms spending by 52.3 billion marks — a 7.6% increase.(18)

New plans followed to deploy 572 Pershing-2 and ground-based Cruise missiles on European soil. The

U.S. has the intention of turning Europe into a testing-ground for tactical nuclear weapons, just as it had used Vietnam and other southeast Asian countries for chemical and biological weapons tests. (According to the London *Times* of Jan. 26 1982, the U.S. used defoliants such as "Agent Orange" and other combinations of phenoxy herbicides in Laos and Vietnam.)

The more the U.S. increases its weapons in Europe, the more possibilities for Washington of blackmailing the people there into compliance. The United States quite seriously believes that it can wage a "limited" nuclear holocaust without the territory of the U.S. being touched. The long-term objective of this plan is to draw the world into the Pentagon's military policy which is based on the concept of 'global war' with the Soviet Union. In so doing, the U.S. administration hopes to turn many countries into hostages of the Pentagon's adventurist actions.

Never in history during peacetime has such an arms race been launched. These facts show that imperialism is heading down the dangerous road of force and violence, threats and aggression. Not even during the period of the Nazi Third Reich was such an arms buildup launched. The present policy of the Reagan administration reminds one of the 30s when fascist forces tried to find a way out of the grave social, economic and political crisis by frenzied rearmament and aggression against the world. This suicidal policy cannot but lead to the catastrophe of a war of incalculable consequences.

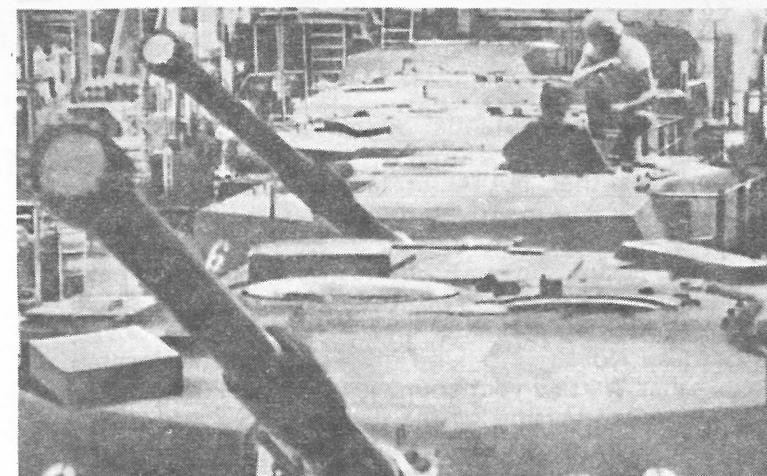
Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev, at a meeting with the Socialist International, talked of "the dangerous consequences the present policy of the NATO bloc, above all that of the USA, may have for the cause of world peace." He added: "Never before since the end of World War II has the situation been so serious."(19)

Following President Carter's announcement of a massive increase in arms spending at the beginning of 1979, Harold Brown, the then Defence Secretary, explained U.S. policy thus: "After nearly a decade of retreat induced by the Vietnam war, the U.S. plans to be more aggressive in defending its economic and security interests in the Middle East and elsewhere."(20)

This policy wins first prize for its myopic crassness. Strategically, there exists no military option for imperialism. Furthermore there exists no military panacea for the political and economic contradictions and crises within the imperialist camp. This mad policy can only exacerbate these crises and lead to further destabilisation. Imperialism roars and bellows as it crawls towards its grave.

THE "SOVIET THREAT"

Under the pretext of an alleged "Soviet threat" the U.S. administration has embarked on a new round



M-1 tanks roll off the assembly line at Ohio plant.

of the arms race. It is now obvious that the U.S. no longer intends to negotiate arms limitation and that it is determined to deploy medium-range missiles on European soil. The U.S. administration is using the Geneva talks as a smokescreen.

The so-called "Soviet threat" is only a cloak to enable imperialism to carry out its global strategy, by intimidating the people of the world into accepting as justifiable the unprecedented arms build-up. This demagogic stand was clearly exposed as fraudulent by John Foster Dulles in 1949, before the creation of NATO. He declared: "I do not know of any responsible official, military or civilian, in this government or any government, who believes that the Soviet government now plans conquest by open military means."(21)

The American people are told that the U.S. only spends 5% of its Gross National Product (GNP) on defence, while the Soviets spend 12-14% on theirs. The Americans are not reminded of course that their GNP is twice that of the Soviet Union.(22)

The CIA uses a method of calculating the dollar equivalent of Soviet military spending which claims to show that the USSR spends more on defence than does the USA. Congressman Les Aspin has shown that by using the same method to calculate the rouble equivalent of U.S. military spending, the opposite conclusion is reached.(23)

Studies made by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) show that the Warsaw Pact countries spend roughly \$20-30 billion on defence forces. NATO countries, by contrast, allocate three to four times that amount.(24) U.S. defence spending also includes funds for sabotaging bilateral arms limitation talks. The U.S. spent \$10 million in an unsuccessful attempt to lead the USSR to believe that the U.S. had about 60 more B-52 bombers than were actually operational.(25)

One common misconception is exploited ruthlessly by the CIA. It is widely assumed that the Soviet

Union has a substantial advantage in conventional forces in Europe. However, the 1981 IISS report concludes that NATO in fact has the surprisingly large advantage in ground forces of 27%. (26)

The accusations of a Soviet military build-up have been fabricated to cover U.S. policy. Not a single Soviet SS-20 missile is located beyond the Soviet borders. Nor are any kind of nuclear missiles located in other Warsaw Pact countries. The SS-20 is merely an updated version of the obsolete SS-4 and SS-5 missiles, which are being scrapped as the SS-20s are being positioned. This means in effect that the Soviet arsenal is not increasing. (27) Moreover, according to the *International Herald Tribune* of Feb. 4, 1982, the deployment of SS-20 missiles has been halted.

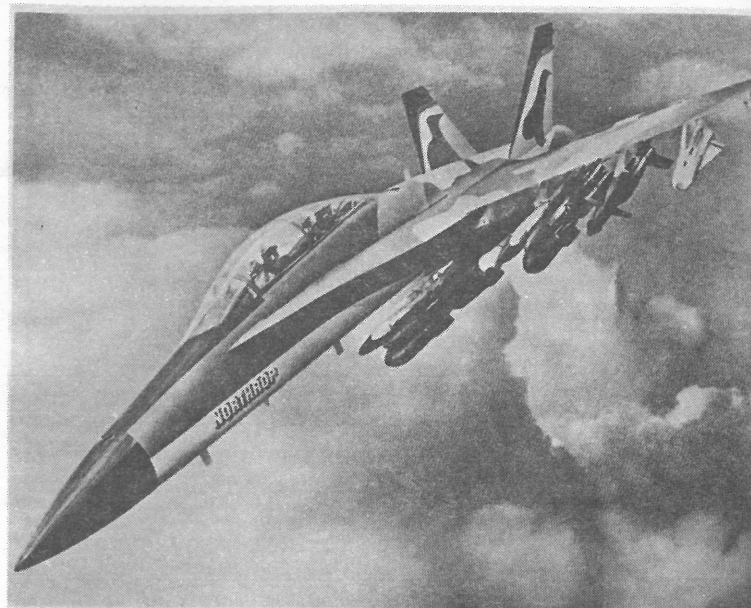
The proposals put forward by Brezhnev for a summit level meeting of the Security Council, for new confidence-building measures in Europe, for a moratorium on the deployment of medium-range missiles in Europe, for the banning of the neutron bomb and other new weapons of mass destruction and for nuclear-free and peace zones are major contributions to the cause for peace and security in the world.

FORCES OF PEACE

A vast movement against the imperialist arms buildup and in support of the peaceful alternative is developing all over the world. The Peace Movement is mounting particularly rapidly in Europe. This is a clear response to the growing military threat on the continent posed by the actions of U.S. imperialism. The claimants to world domination regard Europe as the most suitable place for a direct "limited" confrontation.

In Europe, enormous demonstrations have taken place as part of the offensive against the stationing of American medium-range nuclear missiles and against the plans for the deployment of the neutron bomb. This adventurous policy of the Pentagon warmongers and their accomplices, threatening humanity with a monstrous holocaust, is meeting steadfast rebuff on the part of peace-minded European people. The experience of two World Wars has left its mark. The anti-war movement has acquired a truly mass, popular character.

The Peace Movement has clear-cut aims and concrete slogans. Its members realise very well where the threat is coming from. The main culprit is the U.S. policy of turning Europe into a nuclear testing-ground. The Peace Movement stands for creating nuclear-free zones and against the Pentagon's constant expansion of its military bases and heavy arms dumps.



F-18 attack aircraft: Northrop's latest machine for making money out of death

The current anti-war movement has spread to other parts of the world. All over the world there is a struggle going on of all the imperialist-oppressed neo-colonies and countries, of all dependent countries, against international imperialism. The wretched of the earth are rising up to thrust off the imperialist yoke of oppressive toil and the ever-present danger of war.

Only the strengthening and international cooperation of these forces for peace and change can avert the unimaginable catastrophe facing the world, as posed by the frantic ravings of the dying imperialist system.

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- 25) *IHT* 17/12/82.
- 26) British *Guardian* 22/2/82.
- 27) Malcolm Airley in *The New Worker* (Britain) 11/12/81.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I am very grateful for your magazine as it enlightens me about the current acts of aggression committed by the murderous, blood thirsty Israelis against the Palestinians, and the Arab nation as a whole. I am very optimistic, if not one hundred percent certain, that by the will of Allah you shall emerge victorious with your steadfast commitment, determination and self-sacrifice, to return and establish a permanent and independent state on your homeland.

I feel obliged to give my own moral support forever.

Yours in struggle,
Kabir Isa
Ganye, Kenya.

Dear Friends,

I grieve to read about the Israeli oppressive and arbitrary measures applied against the Palestinian people. But in spite of that, they can not deprive the Palestinian people of their legitimate right to self-determination, the right to return and establish their own independent state on the soil of their homeland.

With best wishes from
Miss R.K. Bali
Kashmir, India

Dear Comrades,

Congratulations to the PLO, on your achievements and 18 years of heroic struggle. I truly sympathise with you all, and I hope that you will persist with your deeds until victory is yours. I can see no solution to the Palestinian question by peaceful means at all. You have had your share in waiting.

Unless the PLO, the representative of the Palestinian people is heard and directly involved in the negotiations, and all the demands of the PLO are fully accepted by all sides concerned, there will be no peace in the Middle East or in the world.

Palestine inalienably, legitimately belongs to the Palestinians. Let the colours of the flag of Palestine fly over a free Jerusalem. Let all of our brothers and sisters live in peace and freedom on the land of their ancestors.

Long live Chairman Yasser Arafat
Long live the Palestinian revolution

Yours truly,
Julia Vojneski
Sydney, Australia

Dear friends,

Accept my best wishes for the year 1982 and my hope that you will make progress in your efforts to free your country Palestine from that disgusting occupation which is taking place. I am absolutely sure you will reach the object of your desire, as people with knowledge of the situation not only know that you shall never give up, they also know you are right.

Yours faithfully,
Per Neergaard Mahler
Denmark

Dear editor,

I am a native of Uganda and I dream that the world will be free from exploitation, misery and war someday. Your magazine is an important weapon in the struggle against the arms-race and imperialism.

Yours faithfully,
Freddie Sekitto Bugembe
Kampala, Uganda.

Dear editor

I would like to tell you that I am one of the many young people who understand your cause. I want to express my sincere support for the struggle of the Palestinian people. Your magazine will help me to know more about the people of Palestine.

Yours faithfully,
Godwin Brian
Kamuli, Uganda.

Dear Comrades,

I thank you for your *Palestine Bulletin*, especially the article on the activities of the Zionist regime in bombing towns and other places in Beirut. I feel sorry for those injured — especially the small babies. I thank Chairman Arafat for his struggle for truth. His aim is to make the Palestine State free of any type of foreign domination or interference.

May God Bless You All.
Yours faithfully,
Steve Matano Adams
Mombasa, Kenya.

SOLIDARITY

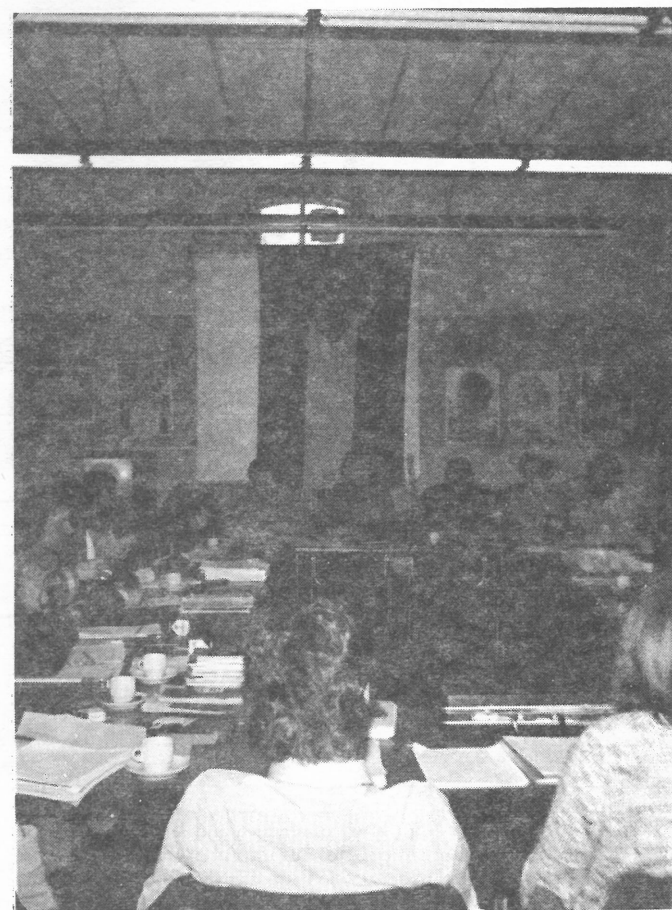
MEETING OF WEST EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY COMMITTEES IN HOLLAND

Delegates of all the committees working in Western Europe in solidarity with the Palestinian people and the PLO, convened their annual meeting on February 20-21, in Leiden, Holland. Mostly young people from Britain, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Holland, Ireland, Norway, Scotland, Switzerland and West Germany came together to discuss ways how they could further intensify and coordinate their efforts in telling their people the truth about the just cause of the Palestinian people and the dangers of Zionist racism, expansionism and militarism. They also sought means how to extend practical humanitarian support for the Palestinian and Lebanese people suffering from non-ending Israeli aggression and occupation.

Each of the delegates also gave an account of the various public activities of their respective groups. Also attending were two representatives of the Secretariat of Solidarity Committees of the PLO Foreign Information Department, which together with the Dutch solidarity committee organised and sponsored the meeting. The two days were full of lectures and intensive discussions, and all participants were encouraged by the both disciplined and brotherly atmosphere of the meetings. The Palestinian representatives gave an analysis of the present situation in the Middle East and outlined the aims of the struggle of the Palestinian people and the PLO.

At the end of the meeting, the participants unanimously passed a resolution calling for self-determination for the Palestinian people and the recognition of the PLO as their only legitimate representative, by all governments and parties of Europe, as well as of the Palestinians' right to build their own state. The resolution also warned against European participation in the U.S.-led occupation forces of Sinai.

It denounced French President Mitterrand's visit to Israel. The participants also called for material support for the Palestinian people and institutions — like the threatened Bir Zeit university — in their struggle against the occupation — as well as for the Palestinian and Lebanese Resistance defending Lebanon against Israeli aggression. (The complete text of the declaration will be published in the next issue of *Palestine*.)



European solidarity committees in session

Dutch Soldiers Protest Against Participation in Sinai Force

On February 23, an initiative led by active soldiers from the different branches of the Dutch armed forces, organized a press conference in Nieuwpoort/Den Haag protesting against any participation of Holland in the U.S.-led "multinational forces" which are supposed to occupy the Sinai peninsula after the Israeli withdrawal next April. The Dutch group "Against Soldiers for Sinai" published an appeal which was signed by many individual soldiers as well as the conscripts' organisation "Bond voor Dienstplichtigen" and several Dutch political and youth organisations. The appeal said that the U.S.-led Sinai forces would only support the Camp David agreements which contradict the rights of the Palestinian people; the forces would be part of the U.S. "Rapid Deployment Forces" and part of a dangerous concept of military interventionism in the Middle East, similar to U.S. intervention in Vietnam. The soldiers also warned against trends to recruit "volunteer" units for Sinai as a step towards establishing mercenary forces.

TRADE UNIONS CONFERENCE UPHOLDS PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

The International Federation of Trade Unions, in a communique issued at the end of its conference in Havana on February 16, stressed that neglect of Palestinian rights represents a threat to peace, in the Middle East and worldwide. The communique also condemned the Israeli annexation of the Golan Heights. The participants in the conference held U.S. imperialism responsible for raising tensions in the world, and pledged support for Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada, while condemning American military intervention in El Salvador.

GDR CONDEMNS ISRAELI PRACTICES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND GOLAN

"The annexation of the Golan Heights has aroused a wave of protest among the GDR population," Kurt Seibt, president of the German Democratic Republic's Solidarity Committee, told an international meeting of solidarity with Syria in its struggle against Israel's Golan annexation, on February 16 in Damascus.

The Israeli decision was a gross violation of international law and of the U.N. Charter. The Begin government's threats of war against Syria and latest troop concentrations in south Lebanon and on the Lebanese border demonstrated Israel's intention to unleash war in the Middle East, he said. Mr. Seibt condemned U.S. backing for the aggressor Israel and added that the Reagan administration held a protective hand over Tel Aviv. The United States veto in the U.N. had prevented internationally demanded sanctions against Israel from taking effect. With its unrestrained support for the aggressor, the U.S. blocked a just and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict. In this context he referred to the Soviet proposal to convene an international Middle East conference with all interested sides participating, a proposal, Mr. Seibt

added, that had lost none of its topicality.

On February 19, he met Khaled Fahoum, president of the Palestine National Council, and Mahmoud Abbas, a member Fateh Central Committee. During their talks, Mr. Seibt reiterated the GDR's firm solidarity with the Palestinian people's just struggle for implementation of its national rights.

DEAN OF MOSCOW MEDICAL SCHOOL VISITS PRCS HOSPITALS

The Dean of the School of Medicine at the Friendship University in Moscow and head of its Paediatrics section, Professor Nicolai Tiorin, on February 18 toured several hospitals run by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society in Lebanon. During his tour, Prof. Tiorin examined several serious cases, gave advice regarding their treatment and offered to transfer several of the children for treatment in the USSR.

SOLIDARITY RALLY IN PRAGUE

A massive solidarity rally in support of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories was held in Prague on February 15. The rally was organized by the General Union of Palestinian Students and the Israeli Communist Party, Rakah, in cooperation with the Czechoslovak Ministry of Education. The speakers confirmed their support for the just struggle waged by the Palestinian people, both inside and outside the occupied territories, under the PLO's leadership.

In a speech delivered on the occasion, the representative of the Czechoslovak Ministry of Education reiterated the support of his people, Party and government for the just struggle of the Palestinian people, and strongly condemned the policies of detention and land expropriation, as well as other plots carried out by the Zionist racist authorities in the occupied territories.

WORLD PEACE COUNCIL CONDEMNS ZIONIST PRACTICES

The World Peace Council on February 15 issued a communique in which it condemned the racist and fascist policies of the Israeli military authorities against the Palestinian population of the occupied territories.

The communique referred to such policies as mass arrests, and the storming of schools, universities, and homes; and confirmed that the Palestinians detained in Israeli jails suffer from chronic and fatal diseases due to the terrible health conditions and the inhuman treatment they are subjected to.

The communique then affirmed that the decision to annex the Golan Heights was accompanied by the manipulation and oppression of the Golan citizens to force them to accept the occupation and give up their Arab citizenship.

The communique urged all international organisations and institutions to save the lives of all Palestinians detained in Israeli jails and to stop Israeli crimes perpetrated against them.

SWEDISH TV SHOWS FILM ON PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE

Swedish television has recently shown a film entitled, "The Small Land". It was produced by a team of prominent Scandinavian filmmakers.

The three-hour film shows the tragedy of the Palestinians from the 1948 catastrophe, the usurpation of Palestine by the Zionists, and the way the Palestinian people developed from being downtrodden refugees to become one of the leading national liberation movements in the world.

A RECORD OF ISRAELI OCCUPATION: 1980

The *Institute for Palestine Studies* in Beirut recently published the 1980 edition of the annual series, "*The Arabs Under Israeli Occupation*."

The 130-page volume presents the development of the Israeli occupation, and the Palestinian national resistance to it, in a highly-readable narrative form and set in a coherent and comprehensible political context. This is a welcome improvement over previous volumes in which events were presented as a chronology. The text draws extensively on the Hebrew and Arabic press, which are not readily available to readers and researchers in the West.

Chapter One details the development of Israeli occupation and settlement policies in the occupied West Bank and Gaza through 1980 and provides a revealing insight into the preparations for the annexations of East Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan Heights. It gives an exposition of the Zionist attempt to destroy any vestige of an independent Palestinian economy and follows the aggressive moves of the Zionist-extremist Kiryat Arb'a settlers, fully backed by Begin's government, to expel the Palestinian inhabitants of the West Bank town of Al-Khalil and turn it into an exclusively Jewish town.

These events and developments are set in the political context of the collapse of the Camp David accords and the so-called "autonomy" talks, which left the way wide open for the Begin government to move towards its final aims of territorial expansion and annexation of the occupied territories.

The absolute rejection of the Zionist plans by the Palestinian people, both inside and outside the occupied territories, was the major stumbling-block to the completion of the Israeli expansionist project. Chapter Two follows the general uprising of the Palestinian people in 1980, under the guidance of the PLO, against the occupation and the brutal Zionist campaign of repression, including the expulsion of West Bank Mayors, the assassination attempts on the Palestinian Mayors Bassam Shak'a, Karim Khalaf and Ibrahim Tawil, and the torture and murder of Palesti-

nian political prisoners during their hunger strike at Nafha prison — repression which led to spontaneous mass demonstrations and incidents of armed struggle that occurred throughout the year.

Chapter Three focusses on the Arabs suffering under Israeli occupation since 1948 — the Palestinians of the Galilee, the Triangle and the Bedouin of the Negev desert. This chapter exposes the economic and political repression, the land expropriation and cultural genocide to which these Palestinians were subjected in 1980 and shows how these violent measures led to a growing resistance movement among the Palestinians of the 1948 occupied territories.

The book includes five appendices consisting of interviews and statements which provide a portrait of the Palestinian patriotic leaders who were the targets of Zionist attacks during 1980 — the expelled Mayors Fahd Qawasmeh and Muhammed Milhem; and Bassam Shak'a and Karim Khalaf who both lost limbs in car bomb attacks. The final appendix, "A Portrait of a Settler" provides a glimpse into some of the root causes for the violence perpetrated against Palestinians of the occupied territories during the year.

"The Arabs Under Israeli Occupation 1980" is a well-narrated account which leaves the reader with only one possible conclusion, best summed up in the words of Halhoul Mayor Muhammed Milhem:

"It's not a question of whether the Palestinians... want to resist the occupation or not. They have no choice in the matter, because the aim of the occupation is to drive them out of their land. The choice is not between resistance and peaceful coexistence with the occupation forces; it is between resistance and dispossession,... So how can tougher measures by the Israelis stop the upheavals? For the Palestinians, it's a matter of 'to be or not be'."

"*The Arabs Under Israeli Occupation 1980*" can be obtained from:
INSTITUTE FOR PALESTINE STUDIES
P.O.Box 11 — 7164
BEIRUT
LEBANON

PALESTINIAN THEATRE SUCCESSFUL IN EUROPE

"Al-Hakawati" (the story-teller) has returned from a successful three-month tour which took the Jerusalem-based Palestinian theatre troupe to England, Poland, Germany, Belgium, Holland, Sweden, Norway and France where they performed their latest play *Mahjoob Mahjoob*. Al Hakawati bases its theatrical productions on Palestinian folk tales. The following report was published in the Palestinian Jerusalem weekly *Al-Fajr* in its issue of 15-21 Jan, 1982.

England

Europeans and Arabs, critics and journalists, welcomed the Palestinian theatre group and praised its reflection of Palestinian society and culture under the Israeli occupation. Ned Chaillet, critic of the London *Times* described *Mahjoob* as "an articulate, intelligent organisation of images and ideas that argue for small acts of heroism as the measure of a Palestinian." (September 23). BBC-TV featured the group on an eight minute segment of its nightly news magazine.

Rosalind Carne of the *Financial Times* wrote: "A final flash forward shows his (the character Mahjoob's) rebirth, and his emergence from the coffin becomes a symbol of Palestinian resistance. Yet there are no guerrillas here and the prevailing mood is far from valiant. In spite of the call for national liberation the play derives its power elsewhere — in careful social detail, and in moral contradictions faced by the ordinary Arab worker in Israel and the occupied territories." (September 24).

Members of the group told *Al Fajr* that the Arab community was very pleased with the positive reaction of the British news media to al-Hakawati. Arabs in London reportedly told the troupe that the appearance of a theatre group of high quality gives the Palestinian cause in England a big push forward.

Poland

The group's itinerary took them to Poland in October. The group participated in the Seventh



A scene from *Mahjoob Mahjoob*

International Theatre Festival in Wroclaw. The festival director commented on the presence of the company and its production as a "true exchange of cultures." He told group members that he was interested in coming to the West Bank with a Polish group.

Scandinavia

On through performances in Belgium and Holland... Next to Sweden and Norway. In only seven days the group performed six times in five cities in Sweden, spanning hundreds of kilometres. Al-Hakawati set up, performed, unpacked, loaded up their props into trucks driven by Swedes to the next destination while they tried to sleep on the night train. When they reached the next destination they would be met for breakfast by members of local Palestinian solidarity groups. Swedish media followed al-Hakawati throughout their journey and the national television network recorded an hour-long programme about Palestinian culture under occupation.

In Oslo, Norway, al-Hakawati's appearance coincided with the exhibition of a Palestinian art show in a prestigious gallery. Palestinian supporters reportedly said that simultaneous presence of two Palestinian art forms brought great understanding and sympathy for the Palestinians' just cause.

France

The group faced its strongest opposition in the southern French town of Montpellier, when unidentified persons spray-painted over the word "Palestinian" in an al-Hakawati advertisement. The group's minibus was also broken into.

The final stop was Paris where the group performed at the well-known Tempête theatre. In addition to positive reviews in *Le Monde*, *Libération* and several other French and Arab journals, the group's presence stirred the interest of French television. A crew included al-Hakawati in a news feature on art and culture under Israeli occupation.

Back last week in Jerusalem, the theatre group has stated plans for publishing a booklet about their European tour and is arranging meetings in the towns and villages where they had performed previously "to keep in touch with our audience" as one of the al-Hakawati, troupe told *Al-Fajr*.

The group is also preparing for a new production to be shown this summer. Members of the group disclosed that it will be "a sort of sequel to *Mahjoob* and will include much more live Arabic music."

Short Story

ENDURANCE

by Subhi Hamdan (born 1949 in Khan Younis)

I felt pleasantly warm when I awoke from my sleep. There was undoubtedly something strange happening in the house. I shook off the eider-down and got up, all my senses extended to feel the silence prevailing over the room. The silence outside was more frightening to a boy like me. A voice rang out, twisting through the air: "Every young man must..." I did not understand a thing. My eyes fixed on my father who retired to a corner to change his clothes. My mother was hugging my baby brother. The voice rang out again and my father's movements became more nervous than before. He started going out, I held onto the tail of his trousers, my mother pulled me away, saying: "Your father has to go out."

"At such an hour?"

"Yes, at such an hour."

"Isn't today Friday?"

"Oh, you are a chatterbox!"

Through a small hole in the door I started watching what was happening in the street. It was empty of passersby, unusually so, desolate as a desert. I saw some women stretching their heads out towards the school which stood on the corner of the street. Like a wild cat I climbed the wall of the house, and was horrified to see a massive crowd surging in the school yard. The inhabitants of the town and the refugee camp were crammed into that narrow space. I stretched my head out and saw heads hiding behind sacks, then becoming visible again. I trembled when my mother's voice struck my ears: "Get down, you little devil."

I came down, her hands grabbed at me, landing on my head and back. She pulled me by my hair, shouting: "Do you want to die just like that, you monkey?"

She shoved me into the room, locked the door and left me alone with the damp walls and the old furniture of the house. My eyes wandered to every corner. I got up with difficulty, my feet bumped against a paraffin stove, and I shouted out: "Mummy... Can you hear me?"

"What do you want?"

"I want to come out?"

"And if you don't come out?"

"I'll burn myself."

I do not know how that idea crossed my mind. It came to me like lightning and was like a thunderclap to my mother's mind. After an instant I heard the key of the door grating inside the lock and I rushed out towards the front door. But her hands caught me this time, and she said in a different tone: "My boy, God bless you, don't go out."

"I won't go out, I just want to look through the door." Through the crack I saw several boys wandering in the street, each one carrying a jug in his hand. It occurred to me that my father might be suffering from thirst, so I went back and started searching frenziedly for any utensil. I found an old earthenware jug, filled it, and as soon as I moved the bolt on the door my mother grabbed me like an omnipotent fate, and shouted, "What do you want to do, you little devil?"

"Look, each one of them is carrying a jug, and I'll do the same." She removed the jug with difficulty, put it beside the wall and said: "Do you want to die today?"

"No."

"So don't go out."

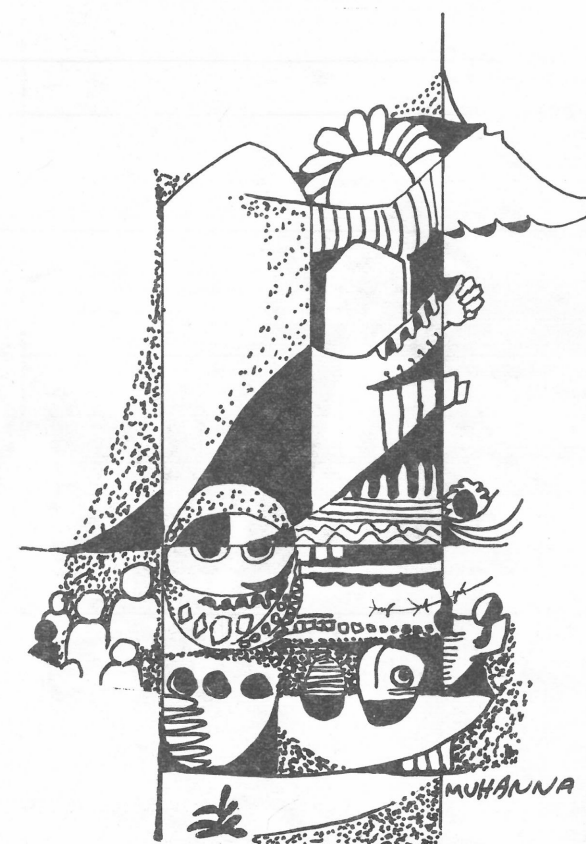
"And those boys?"

Before she could answer my question, successive volleys of shots rang out. I looked through the crack. The boys were running like frightened rabbits in all directions. Time passed quickly, the sun started to go down in the west, and the boys came back, slinking through the narrow streets, continuing to proceed warily towards the wall of the school. I looked around and did not see my mother. I snatched the jug, darted out like an arrow and joined the boys who had moved right up to the wall of the school. I gazed fixedly at the men, trying to see my father among the groups of men who were squatting with their hands on their heads and their faces in the sand. Our pottery jugs hung like rare merchandise. Suddenly a man raised his head and looked around him, making a sign to us from which we understood that he wanted to drink. We hesitated, and I began to measure the distance between the school wall and the last line of men, and it seemed to me easy to cross this distance in a few seconds before the soldier, who was looking away, noticed. I jumped over the wall and ran like the wind, hearing the sound of my companions' bodies running behind me. I reached the man, handed him the jug and returned like a bird of great wings. No sooner had I got over the wall than heavy firing resounded in the place and frantic bullets whistled near my head and fell like stones. I regained my breath and leant on my right hand, trying to get up, but

I felt a numbness paralysing my whole arm. I got up by leaning on my left arm, staggered and then fell down again on the sand of the road. I felt a fire eating at my whole shoulder, probed at the place where it hurt and my hand was soaked with blood. My teeth chattered and dizziness laid me out. I felt nausea and things danced around me.

I opened my eyes to examine the smooth walls and the white ghosts. I was restless and felt a heaviness in my head and an emptiness in my stomach. I closed my eyes as if trying to collect that had happened in my mind, and called out: "Father, Father, I want my father."

After that day I discovered that I had lost valuable things, among them my father, my arm and my childhood.



WEST GERMAN-PALESTINIAN FILM:

"BORN OUT OF DEATH"

On the morning of Friday July 17th 1981 at 10:30, Fakhani, one of the most populated areas of Beirut, became the scene of a horrible massacre, executed by the U.S.-made planes of the Israeli airforce. Many civilian buildings, all crammed with Lebanese and Palestinian families, were bombed and destroyed. About 300 civilians, nearly half of them children, were murdered, with hundreds more wounded in this single air raid.

This abominable act of international terror is the subject of a new short film directed and produced by the West German film maker Monica Maurer with the help of cameramen from the PLO film section. It takes up the story of Fatma al-Halabi, who was killed in the attack, and her baby who was born out of the cataclysmic attack. The film, while showing the scenes of horror, gives a voice to the dead mother:

"When the Israeli planes dropped their bombs on Fakhani, I was in my 9th month of pregnancy. I ran in panic to save myself and my baby's life ... in vain. I was executed by a Phantom. Shortly after I was killed, a second piece of shrapnel cut my hip and opened my womb like a Caesarean section and my baby emerged. An ambulance man cut the umbilical cord and brought the little girl, whose feet were wounded

as far as the bone, to the hospital. Najib, my husband, rushed to help me. He found me dead, drenched with blood and our baby alive. He called her Palestine. I may have died, but Palestine is living: a symbol of continuity, of immortality; a symbol of life!"

The film not only presents scenes of the holocaust, it also shows the people: "They will never break our common determination to continue our resistance against those who robbed our joy, our peace, those who burnt our fields and killed our beloved ones." The film is dedicated to the Lebanese and Palestinians killed, wounded and mutilated "by the Israeli airforce — made in USA". And it is made "in memorium of Majed Abu Sharar", the head of the PLO Unified Information who was murdered by Israeli

and imperialist agents in Rome on October 9, 1981.

The film has already stirred great emotion when it was shown on Cuban television and in several public institutions and factories. At the 24th International Leipzig Film Festival it was awarded the Prize of the Ministry of Culture of the GDR, and then was shown also on GDR television and at an international solidarity rally of the Freie Deutsche Jugend (youth organisation). In the United States, the film was shown on several university campuses and at the conference of the Arab-American University Graduates (A.A.U.G.) in Houston. Iranian television too has already expressed its intention to shown the film.

"Born Out of Death". Directed and produced by Monica Maurer; Camera: Samir Nimer, Muhammad Awad, Tawfiq Musa; Editing: Mauro Contini.



Fakhani massacre...



...the people...



...the houses...



...the martyred Fatmeh and her baby Palestine



広河隆一写真展

パレスチナの人びと

PALESTINIANS

by Ruichi Hirokawa

Palestine

P.L.O.
information
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1982 MARCH 30:
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