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パレスチナの人びと

PALESTINIANS

by Ruichi Hirokawa

Palestine

P.L.O.
information
bulletin

Vol. 8, No. 6
16-31 March 1982



1982 MARCH 30:
PALESTINE LAND DAY

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.

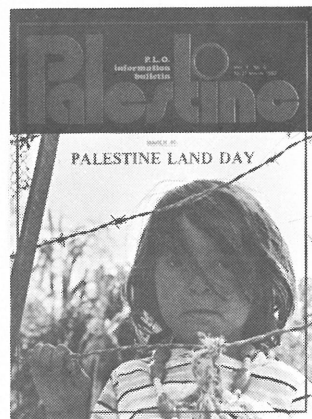
Nevertheless, though we may possess limited means, our determination and willingness to sacrifice is unlimited. The world forces of liberation, of which we are proud to be a part, are the emerging forces, and it is to us that the future belongs. The forces of oppression have had their day, and shall 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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PRICE L.L. 1

Yearly Subscription Rates:

Africa, Asia and Latin America U.S. \$ 16
Europe, USA, Canada and Australia U.S. \$ 20

All cheques should be made out to "PALESTINE BULLETIN" payable to our account No. 415286, Bank of Beirut and Arab Countries, Beirut, Lebanon.

All copies of "PALESTINE BULLETIN" will be sent by air mail.

NOTICE: "PALESTINE BULLETIN" welcomes contributions, letters and articles from its friends and readers.

Palestine

BI-MONTHLY INFORMATION BULLETIN
published in English & French, by
THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANISATION
UNIFIED INFORMATION
P.O. Box: 145168, Tel. 302432
BEIRUT - LEBANON

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"PALESTINE BULLETIN"

EDITORIAL

THE UNBREAKABLE WILL OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

Israel's "benevolent" and "democratic" occupation is shaking. The mass upheaval in the occupied territories, the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights is still going on. Demonstrations and strikes broke out during the last two weeks, in protest of the new repressive measures of the occupation authorities.

The Israeli forces occupying the Palestinian and Arab territories are escalating their intimidation measures against the people living under their rule. Blinded by the arrogance of their imported power from the U.S.A., the Israeli authorities believe that they can reverse the course of history. They also believe that the Palestinians and the Syrians of the Golan Heights should be happy being oppressed by the Israeli forces. On the Golan Heights the Syrian Arabs refused the official annexation of their region to the Israeli state. They also refused to have Israeli passports instead of their originally Syrian identity cards, and they refuse the new Israeli laws and regulations imposed on them. The upheaval amongst the Golan Heights Syrians is going on now for almost four weeks.

On the West Bank and Gaza the Israeli occupation authorities are preparing the ground for an official annexation. They hoped that after 15 years of occupation the Palestinian Arabs will adapt to their occupation. They changed the military rule to a so-called "civilian" administration. The chief of the civilian administration, Menahem Milson, a professor for Arabistic, was a former general in the Israeli occupation forces. Milson, as professor-general, started his new job by taking new repressive measures against the Palestinians under his authority. His silk glove policy towards the civilian population did not work as well as expected.

Milson closed the universities of the West Bank because they were accused of being the hot beds of rejection to his policy. The uproar spread around from the universities to other towns and cities. The Israeli occupation authorities, unhappy with what had happened, started

a new provocation. They removed the mayor of Al-Bireh from his post and appointed an Israeli officer to run the municipality business. With step, the people of Al-Bireh went to streets to demonstrate against this repressive measure. Sharon and Milson reacted vehemently, and a confrontation between the demonstrators and the Israeli tanks took place. The well-equipped Israeli soldiers shot at the unarmed Palestinian demonstrators. A 17 years old boy was killed and several others were wounded. The demonstrators faced the Israeli tanks and armoured cars with their chests and with stones.

Occupation Minister Sharon was very angry because other mayors of the West Bank declared solidarity with Al-Bireh's Mayor. Consequently Sharon and Milson removed another two mayors, Shaka'a of Nablus and Khalaf of Ramallah. With this new provocation the mass uprising stepped up and spread around to all the occupied territories. Even the Gaza Mayor, Shawwa, declared a 3 days strike in solidarity with the removed three mayors. The Israeli tanks roamed in all the cities of the West Bank and the Gaza-Strip. 8 Palestinian schoolkids were killed either by the armed settlers or by the Israeli soldiers, more than a hundred were wounded, and thousands were arrested.

Those events raised world-wide sympathy with the Palestinians and as well as strong condemnation of the Israeli repressive measures.

The Israeli image of "civilian" occupation which they have been cultivating for the last 15 years has fallen apart. The ugly face of occupation has been exposed. Morally speaking the battle of stones is much more demoralizing to the Israeli soldiers than an armed battle. To face the Israeli tanks with stones means that our people have broken through the barrier of fear. It means also that the will and determination of the stone thrower is stronger than that of the armed to the teeth soldier. It means that the will of the Palestinian people is unbreakable.

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PALESTINE CHRONOLOGY

MARCH 10: Fateh Central Committee member Abu al-Hol on behalf of the Palestinian Revolution addressed the "Democracy of World Education" seminar, organised by the General Union of Palestinian Students, the National Union of Lebanese University Student and the International Union of Students (I U S), which was inaugurated at the Beaurivage Hotel in Beirut. In his speech, Abu al-hol referred to the situation in the occupied territories stating that "our students are confronting the occupation with stones. The Israeli authorities could not bear to see Bir Zeit University functioning, since they fear the Palestinian students; so they closed it for an indefinite period."

MARCH 11: Farouk Kaddoumi, Head of the PLO Political Department, after meeting with France's External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson told pressmen that he regretted the position France has adopted towards the rights of the Palestinian people. He said that France gives the existence and security of Israel priority over the realization of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, the victims of Israeli aggression.

MARCH 12: Fateh Central Committe member, Brig. Abu al-Walid sponsored the graduation of the Majed Abu Sharar training course for leaders of the second unit, at the military training centre headquarters.

Addressing the graduates, Abu al-Walid spoke about the current situation facing the Palestinian Revolution in the light of the continuous Israeli military build-up against south Lebanon and the possibility of an Israeli military aggression against Lebanon.

Chairman Arafat met with the General Secretary of the Arab League, Chadli al-Qlibi. The meeting dealt with a number of important issues, foremost among which were Israeli movements in southern Lebanon and the Israeli threats against both the Lebanese and Palestinian people. The Arab and Palestinian situations in the light of the latest political moves were surveyed as well. Arafat and Qlibi then discussed the means of bolstering solidarity and unity amongst the Arabs in these dangerous times.

MARCH 14: Syrian President Hafez al Assad received Nimr Saleh (Abu Saleh) member of the Fateh Central Committee and of the General Command of the Assifa Forces. Discussions covered the overall situation in the Arab region, in view of recent Arab and international developments; and focused on the importance of the Palestinian - Syrian dialogue. The dialogue was begun recently to reach a joint Palestinian - Syrian stand on all Arab issues, in a way that would consolidate the Arab liberation movement in its confrontation of imperialist-Zionist-reactionary challenges.

Fateh Central Committee members Abu Iyad and Abu al-Adib met with the Emir of Kuwait, Jaber al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, and Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad al-Abdallah al-Salem al-Sabah. The meeting was also attended by Awni Battash, the PLO representative in Kuwait.

During the meeting, the Fateh Central Committee members reviewed the latest developments on the Arab and Palestinian levels, as well as the situation in south Lebanon. The Kuwaiti leaders for their part affirmed their continued support for the Palestinian people and their just struggle.

Yasser Arafat received a cable of support and solidarity from Muhammad Ali al-Harkan, General Secretary of the World Islamic League, at the end of a visit to south Lebanon by a delegation from the League.

The General Secretary thanked Arafat for his warm reception of the delegation, and praised the struggle of the Palestinian people to liberate Islamic holy sites and the land occupied by the Zionists.

MARCH 15: Yasser Arafat received a delegation from the Socialist International, headed by General Secretary Don

Carlson. The delegation includes members from Sweden, Finland, Cyprus, Italy, Spain and Austria. The meeting dealt with the latest developments in the Middle East, in view of the Israeli threats against Lebanon.

Arafat called on the Socialist International to shoulder its responsibilities towards the national rights of the Palestinian people, especially since its stands have so far been below the level required.

The delegation visited several Palestinian refugee camps, met with popular committees and examined the social and health conditions there.

Yasser Arafat met with the Assistant Secretary-General of the Arab League for Economic Affairs, Dr. Hassan Zalzala, to discuss the economic situation in the occupied territories and means of supporting the Palestinian people as well as proposed plans for an Arab economic strategy. The meeting was attended by PLO Executive Committee member Dr. Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi.

Fateh Central Committee member Abu Iyad met with the President of the Kuwaiti People's Assembly, Yusef al-Adasani, in the presence of Fateh Central Committee member Abu al-Adib and the PLO representative in Kuwait, Awni Battash.

The meeting dealt with the latest developments in the Arab region, particularly the situation in southern Lebanon following the escalation of Zionist threats and military concentrations.

Farouk Kaddoumi, Head of the PLO Political Department, met with Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo for three hours in Rome.

Discussions focused on current developments in the Middle East and future eventualities. The meeting was attended by Abu Hatem, responsible for external relations in Fateh and Nimr Hammad, the PLO representative in Italy. An Italian statement said the talks were part of the periodic contacts between the PLO and the Italian Government, begun in 1977.

MARCH 19: Abu Jihad, member of the Fateh Central Committee and deputy commander-in chief of the Assifah Forces, met with UNIFIL Commander Gen. William Callaghan.

Col. Fakhri Shaqoura, Commandant of the Palestine Liberation Army; Col. Abdel Razzak al-Majaidah, Director of Mobilization in the Palestinian Revolution; Lt. Col. Abu Hmeid, Commander of the Palestine Armed Struggle Command; and Mahmoud al-Labadi of PLO Foreign Information, as well as several UNIFIL offices also attended the meeting.

Abu Jihad briefed Gen. Callaghan on the repeated Israeli ceasefire violations in South Lebanon. He enumerated the continuous overflights, naval patrols of the Lebanese coast, heavy machine gun fire, artillery shelling, kidnapping, and the building of new fortifications and military positions.

Abu Jihad also presented the UN officials with a lengthy review of the situation in the occupied territories and the struggle of the Palestinian people there struggling against Zionist oppression and attempts at imposing the "autonomy" conspiracy on them.

MARCH 19: Chairman Arafat received letters from King Khaled and Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia in response to an earlier message sent by Arafat concerning Israeli troop concentrations in and threats against south Lebanon.

Following Successful Talks in Berlin

G.D.R. ACCORDS P.L.O. FULL RECOGNITION

On March 10, Chairman Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian delegation accompanying him concluded a two day official visit to the German Democratic Republic. The official talks between the Palestinian delegation headed by Chairman Arafat and the German delegation headed by Comrade Erich Honecker, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) were described by both sides as being successful and fruitful. The Palestinian - GDR Joint Communique stressed that "the Palestinian question is and will remain the

essence of a lasting settlement of the Middle East question, based on complete and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, and the realization of the Palestinian's legitimate rights. In an atmosphere of friendship and cooperation, the GDR agreed to raise the status of the PLO office in Berlin to embassy level. Moreover the two sides condemned the imperialist policies of launching threats and of military pressure aimed at interfering in the internal affairs of independent states. Following are excerpts of the joint communique:

GDR - PALESTINIAN JOINT COMMUNIQUE

"Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and Commander-in-Chief of the Forces of the Palestinian Revolution heading a PLO delegation paid an official visit to the GDR on March 9 and 10, 1982, at the invitation of Erich Honecker, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED).

Taking part in the talks were, on the GDR side: Hermann Axen, member of the Politburo and Secretary of the Central Committee of SED; Horst Dohlus, member of the SED Politburo Dr. Gerhard Weiss, member of the SED Central Committee and Deputy Prime Minister; Oskar Fischer, member of the Central Committee and Foreign Minister; and other party and Government officials; and on the Palestinian side: Farouk Kaddoumi, Head of the PLO Political Department; Abdel Muhsin Abu Maizar, Ahmad al Yamani and Yasser Abed Rabbo, all members of the PLO Executive Committee and Dr. Issam Kamel Salem, PLO representative in the GDR.

"Official talks between comrades Arafat and Honecker took place in the spirit of the traditional friendship and anti-imperialist solidarity between the PLO and the GDR. They exchanged points of view on the consolidation of bilateral relations and discussed major international issues.

"The two leaders voiced deep satisfaction with the fact that the meetings they held so far had greatly contributed in formulating the long-standing ties of friendship between the GDR and the PLO.

"Comrade Honecker reiterated the GDR's support for the just struggle waged by the Palestinian people, under

the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, in order to realize their inalienable legitimate rights, including the right to return, self-determination and to establish their independent state over their national soil as stipulated in UN resolutions on Palestine.

"Yasser Arafat praised the success achieved by the German people under the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, and their contribution in consolidating world peace, as well as the GDR's solidarity with the struggle of the people for national and social liberation and against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, racism, Zionism, and reaction. He thanked the GDR people, party and state for their full support of and solidarity with the struggle of the PLO and of the Palestinian people

"In reviewing the international situation, the two sides expressed their deep anxiety at the adventurous course of confrontation and superarmament pursued by the more aggressive imperialist circles, especially the USA, which has greatly worsened the international situation."

"Honecker and Arafat resolutely spoke out against stepping up the military presence of U.S. imperialism in the Middle East and the Gulf region. This policy was a new stage of the acute menace to world peace. The agreement between the U.S. and Israel on their 'strategic alliance' was especially dangerous, they said. Honecker and Arafat emphatically rejected the imperialist policy of threats. United action of the Arab states and all patriotic forces were of special importance in order to successfully counter dangerous developments.

"The two delegations strongly protest against the policy of annexing occupied Palestine and Arab land and against the latest Israeli decision to annex the Syrian



Arafat confers with Honecker

Golan Heights. They reaffirm their support for the Lebanese people and the National Lebanese forces. An indispensable prerequisite for a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East conflict on a just basis and with equal participation of the PLO, were Israel's complete and unconditional withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and the implementation of the inalienable rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including the right to return, self-determination and the foundation of an independent state.

"Honecker described the broad international recognition of the PLO as being a result of its active political work and of the effective support it receives from the socialist states and all peace and freedom loving forces in the world.

"The two sides welcome the USSR's suggestion to hold an international conference to solve the Palestine and Middle East problems, and find this to be the correct course for solving the Palestine question according to UN resolutions.

"The two sides share the view that Israel's legislative and administrative measures, aimed at changing the status of Jerusalem, constitute a blatant violation of international law and UN resolutions and create new obstacles in the way of a just peace in the Middle East. These measures must therefore be stopped. The two leaders stress their condemnation of the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestine territories and of the intensification of repressive actions and racial discrimination against the Palestinian masses and the desecration of the historical, religious and cultural Arab values, as well as other Israeli actions in this regard.

"The two sides are for guaranteeing the security of

the Arab Peninsula and the Gulf by these states themselves without external interference.

"The GDR and the PLO stress the necessity of implementing UN and Non - Aligned resolutions regarding the transformation of the Indian Ocean into a peace Zone, and stress the political importance of convening a UN conference on the Indian Ocean at the earliest opportunity.

"The GDR and the PLO declare their full solidarity with the peoples and states in Southern Africa in the struggle for safeguarding their national sovereignty and territorial integrity, for the liberation of the still oppressed African peoples.

They resolutely condemn the policy of racial discrimination and apartheid of the Pretoria racist regime and its aggression against Angola and other states in Southern Africa. They support the struggle of the peoples of Namibia and South Africa under the leadership of their legitimate representatives, SWAPO and the ANC for liberation and independence. The two sides came out for strict implementation of the UN resolutions on granting Namibia's independence.

"Honecker and Arafat declared their links to the struggle of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean for the consolidation of their national independence and social progress.

"Honecker praised the Non-Aligned Movement as an important factor in the people's struggle for world peace and security for ending the arms race and against imperialism, neo-colonialism and racism. He declared the GDR's solidarity with these aims which are important for all mankind; and expressed hoped that the next Non-Aligned Summit will play a positive and important role in international policy.

"The two leaders expressed satisfaction over the course of the visit and its results and the talks which took place in an atmosphere of mutual confidence. They expressed their determination to pursue and consolidate meetings and contacts in order to deepen long-lasting friendship and anti-imperialist solidarity. They voiced conviction regarding the development of fruitful co-operation between the PLO and the GDR in all fields which serve the interests of the GDR and Palestinian peoples.

"Honecker stressed that the GDR considers international support for the Palestinian struggle as part of its foreign policy, based on the principle of anti-imperialist solidarity.

"Starting from the fact that the PLO is the legitimate and authentic representative of the Palestinian people and taking into consideration that the PLO office in the GDR was granted diplomatic status already four years ago, the two sides agreed to raise the PLO office in the GDR to the rank of embassy.

Arafat finally thanked Honecker for the cordial reception and the warm hospitality extended to him and the PLO delegation.

The "Iron Fist" Comes Down:

AL-BIREH MUNICIPALITY DISSOLVED

On March 18, the Zionist occupation authorities sent Israeli troops into the town of al-Bireh on the West Bank and dissolved the al Bireh Municipal Council "for political reasons". The Israeli authorities have appointed a four-member committee from the civil administration to take over the municipality's functions.

As soon as the dissolution was made public, a general strike was declared in al-Bireh and neighbouring Ramallah. Demonstrations erupted spontaneously in the streets of al-Bireh. A large number of Palestinian protestors were arrested. Telephone communications in the region were also disrupted. Demonstrations against the Israeli occupation and the Zionist "civil" administration and "autonomy" schemes continued into the next day. All towns and villages on the West Bank went on a total general strike. Israeli troops poured into the occupied territories and strict measures were imposed while Israeli troops deployed in al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem.

The Israeli military occupation issued a decree banning the distribution of all Jerusalem Arabic papers and all news relating to al-Bireh was strictly censored.

Israeli troops have arrested Karim Khalaf, Mayor of Ramallah and Anabta Mayor Wahid Hamdallah. A further 120 people have also been detained in Ramallah and al-Bireh. Slandorous attacks on Khalaf and Nablus mayor Bassam Shaka'a appeared in Zionist papers in an attempt to justify any measures taken against them. Al-Bireh Mayor Ibrahim Tawil was issued with a restriction of movement order on March 1 for six months. This is the fourth such order on Ibrahim Tawil since August 1980. The Zionist occupation government has imposed such restrictions on most West Bank and Gaza Strip mayors and national leaders.

Then on March 15, Tawil was ordered to meet with Menahem Milson, head of the Israeli "civil" administration. The mayor refused to comply and the al-Bireh council members replied to Israeli war minister Ariel Sharon that the elected municipalities meet with the Israeli occupation authorities as



Zionist occupation blocks Al-Bireh Municipality entrance

represented by the military government and not as civilian authorities. They added that they were elected in 1976 by the Palestinian people to provide general services within the framework of the municipal laws. "We were not elected as a bridge over which will pass enemy plans and solutions already rejected by our people such as the 'civil' administration, and the 'autonomy' scheme"

The campaign of solidarity with al-Bireh has intensified since the decision was made public, with popular delegations and representatives of various national institutions and unions visiting the municipalities, committees of solidarity and sending letters of support to the Mayor.

All West Bank and Gaza mayors declared their solidarity with Tawil. In cables sent to the Israeli Defence and Interior ministries and to the Ramallah military governor, the municipalities confirmed that the election of their members by the Palestinian masses was in accordance with their programme which rejects the "civil" administration and considers the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The latest Israeli decision comes as no surprise. Since 1967, the Zionists' policy has been to eradicate the Palestinians people's presence from the West Bank and Gaza. Time and again the Israeli occupier has boasted that it would not withdraw from the occupied territories. In 1978, under cover of the Camp David accords the Zionists attempted to impose "administrative autonomy" on the people of the occupied territories. Faced with total rejection to their schemes by the Palestinian people and the PLO, they resorted to an "iron fist" policy against the elected municipalities and elimination of mayors by violence in 1980, in order to break the opposition to the "autonomy" scheme. The Zionists also attempted to create an alternative leadership to the PLO and patriotic mayors by creating bodies of collaborators — the "village leagues", armed and financed by the Israelis.

PLO PRESS CONFERENCE ON AL-BIREH

On March 19, a press conference was held at WAFA, the Palestinian news agency at which PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abd Rabbo and Fateh Central Committee member Abu Jihad spoke.

Abed Rabbo began by saying that "the dissolution of the Municipal Council of al-Bireh marks the beginning of a critical new phase in the occupied territories. He said that this latest move is proof of the deadlock reached by the occupation after the four month general uprising in rejection of the 'civil' administration and refusal to deal with it at any level."

He said that the falling apart of the "village leagues" had increased the problems of the occupation and been a setback for Sharon's policies. "We can therefore say that the latest move is an attempt to break the isolation of the occupation authorities and reverse the consecutive failures of its policies and strategic plans in the occupied territories.

Abed Rabbo added that "the immediate reaction of the population to the dissolution of the Bireh Council proves the unity of the people and their rallying around their national leaders, mainly the municipalities, and around their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. He stressed that this was the beginning of more critical measures which our people are determined to resist."

He concluded by stressing that, "as all enemy attempts to impose the 'civil' administration and 'village leagues' had failed, so the people's determination will foil these latest measures against the West Bank municipalities."

Now, with the utter failure of these schemes, the Zionists have resorted to outlawing the national bodies such as the National Guidance Committee and shutting down the elected municipalities, under cover of a bogus "civil" administration — the continuation of the Israeli military occupation in pinstripe trousers.

Milson's "civil" administration which began functioning on December 1, 1981, has met with opposition from the Palestinian population as a whole and from all West Bank elected mayors, who rightly consider it but a new Israeli step towards the annexation of the occupied territories. The Zionists have carried out a constant campaign of attacks on educational institutions, unions and popular organizations to this end. Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf told reporters that the latest Israeli decision "will not



PLO press conference
L. to r.: Abu Jihad, Yasser Abd Rabbo, Mahmoud Labadi

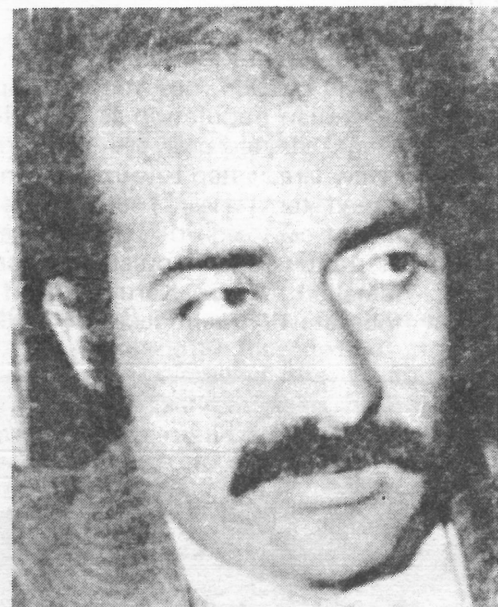
Abu Jihad spoke in turn and reiterated that the dissolution of the al-Bireh Municipality is part of a plan against all West Bank and Gaza Strip municipalities. He considered this step as "an important escalation in the enemy's repressive measures against our people."

Abu Jihad added that the population of the occupied territories had taken a unanimous stand in confronting the Israeli authorities' plans, and had expressed their outright opposition to the civil administration from the moment it had been formed. He stressed that the Palestinian Revolution stands firmly beside the people in the occupied territories, and the Palestinian leadership has already taken a series of measures in this regard.

He disclosed that the PLO's representative at the United Nations has met with the head of the UN General Assembly and the President of the Security Council, handing them memoranda on the latest Israeli measures. A debate is also taking place among Arab delegates at the UN, and the Jordanian Ambassador has presented a formal complaint at the Security Council on behalf of Arab delegates.

succeed in making us recognize the "civil administration which it appointed."

In a telephone interview with *AFP* on March 18, Ibrahim Tawil declared:



Ibrahim Tawil: standing firm

"The Israeli occupier takes its revenge on those who do not recognize the "civil" administration which it has no right to impose on us. But, by force, it can do what it wants. Dismissals, expulsions, annexations are the acts of force which world opinion assists without restricting them."

"We were hostile to the visit of President Mitterrand to Israel, two weeks ago, because it constituted an encouragement to the annexation of Golan and to the aims of Begin on the West Bank. Mitterrand must admit that we were right."

On March 20, the Palestinian uprising intensified amid escalating Israeli violence. Zionist stormtroopers opened fire on demonstrations in Ramallah and al-Bireh killing a seventeen-year-old student Ibrahim Badran and two young girls Samia and Amani Barghouti.

The Israeli authorities tried in vain to break the general strike. They attempted to force shopkeepers to open their shops in Bethlehem, Beit Sahour, Tulkarem and Jenin, while troops sealed up the doors of establishments in Ramallah, al-Bireh and Nablus.

All roads to al-Bireh and Ramallah were closed off while Palestinian women staged a sit-in at the al-Bireh municipality building after expelling the Israeli "official". Automatic weapons fire was later heard in the town.

Nablus Mayor, Bassam al-Shaka'a who walks on crutches since the Israelis blew up his car in 1980, was thrown on the ground by Israeli soldiers and

border guards amongst whom were a number of officers.

Shaka'a and other eyewitnesses say that the Israeli soldiers fired bullets at the ground surrounding him, he managed to get up, tore his shirt open and cried, "Hit you facists, hit, for the only strength available to you is the strength of guns." Then he talked to the crowd saying, "any cooperation with the civil administration is treason." After that the Israeli forces shot tear gas at the crowds and dispersed them.

The Israelis had tried to create confusion surrounding the municipalities. They had said that Bassam Shaka'a had resigned his post. However, this was clearly revealed as a lie when the above incident took place.

On the same day, all Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon observed a general strike in solidarity with the Municipal Council of al-Bireh. Yasser Abd Rabbo, PLO Executive Committee member, led a mass demonstration and delivered a speech in which he said:

"On this day hundreds of thousands of our people in the occupied homeland say to the occupation: We are one force which is impossible to crush, and the oppressive measures practiced by the occupation authorities can never bring this force to its knees. We are one people which offers the greatest sacrifices for the liberation of our country and the building of our independent Palestinian state on our national soil".



Mass demonstration in Beirut in support of the Palestinians struggling under occupation

He also affirmed the need to crush the quisling "village leagues", which are already breaking apart. He ended by saying: "We and our people inside are one, our path is the same, our victory is one for the entire Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO".

Israel's "Bandits" on the Run:

OCCUPIED PALESTINE RISES UP AGAINST OCCUPATION



Total confrontation: Zionists gas Palestinian streets

The occupied homeland is currently witnessing a total confrontation by all sectors of the Palestinian population. As *Palestine* goes to press, over the past weeks the struggle of the Palestinian people in the occupied West Bank has escalated sharply in anger against the Zionist policies and occupation in Palestine.

The incidents which sparked off the current uprising include the recent closure of Bir Zeit University for the second time in only four months and the shooting of two students in Nablus on March 6. However, the fundamental reasons for the present confrontation remain the steadfast resistance of the Palestinian people and elected municipalities of the West Bank to the Israeli presence and rule, and especially towards the dummy institutions of the Israeli "civil" administration which barely masks the Zionist military government. Following is a chrono-

logy of the major events which have taken place since the start of the uprising:

On March 6, an Israeli army patrol shot and wounded two students at al-Najjah school in Nablus during a demonstration against the closure of Bir Zeit University. After a seminar held in Bir Zeit University in solidarity with the students there, Israeli police arrested eleven progressive Jews on charges of participating in the seminar.

The following day, Nablus mayor Bassam Shaka'a called a general strike for March 8, despite threats from the Israeli authorities. Further demonstrations took place in the al-Hamareh refugee camp on the al-Bireh-Nablus road as well as on the al-Najjar University campus. All roads leading to Nablus were sealed off by Israeli road blocks. In al-Bireh young schoolgirls protesting against the closure of Bir Zeit were dispersed by the army using tear gas.



Basaam Shaka'a:
any cooperation with the "civil" administration is treason

No to "Autonomy"; No to "Civil" Administration

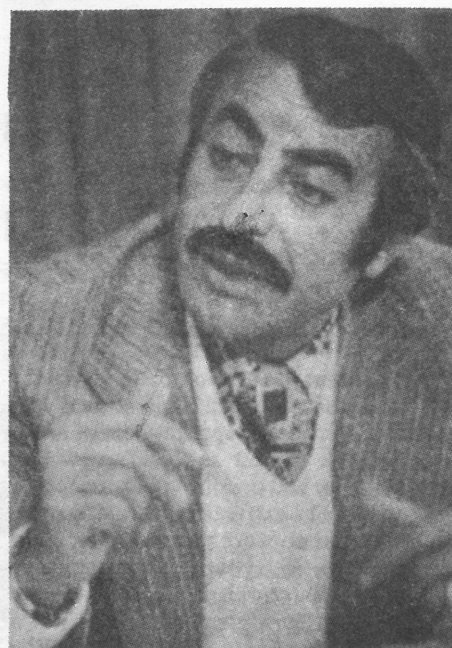
46 students of the engineering college in Hebron were arrested when students were involved in a battle with the Israeli occupation army. During the clashes, the car windscreen of the head of the "civil administration" in Hebron (Shmuel Seguev) was smashed.

The students shouted slogans hostile to "civil administration" and raised the Palestinian flag over the college. In a communique the students expressed their solidarity with their fellow-students at Bir Zeit and with the people of the Golan who had been on strike for three weeks.

The campaign against the Israeli occupation received a further boost when Mohammed Ali Hassan al-Amayariyah, head of the so-called "village leagues" in the Hebron area resigned his post. He said in a communique that he had now seen the "dangerous political role" of this institution. The "village leagues" have been propped up by the Israeli occupation in yet another attempt to replace the legally elected Palestinian municipal leaders and bodies.

On March 8, Israeli soldiers attempted to break the general strike in Nablus and stormed shops in the process. Demonstrations were later held in the city. Troops lobbed tear gas canisters and fired on the demonstrators; several were arrested, and during a demonstration at Bir Zeit secondary school, three young girls were detained.

In Ramallah, Israeli soldiers stormed a UNRWA school and arrested nearly 50 people. Demonstrations took place following this outrage. In Bethlehem, other demonstrations took place after Israeli troops had encircled Bethlehem University and attacked the students. The demonstrators threw stones at Israeli



Karim Khalaf:
we will never recognise the "civil" administration

military vehicles and set tyres on fire and erected stone barricades to prevent the passage of Israeli military vehicles. The Israeli military authorities later arrested all the student leaders.

At Sayir, near Hebron, a demonstration took place at the principal administrative "autonomy" and "civil" administration. All demonstrations during the day expressed solidarity with the Arabs of the Golan and the town of Rafah in the Gaza Strip.

On March 9, in Ramallah, all schools were closed down and large student demonstrations were staged throughout the town, calling for the reopening of Bir Zeit university. Barricades were erected to bar Israeli troops from attacking the demonstrators. Israeli troops opened fire and hurled tear gas at the demonstrators.

In Nablus, girl students organised a march in the town market place. Clashes developed between troops and demonstrators and in Hebron, the Engineering College closed down in protest against the closing of Bir Zeit and the arrest of 49 of their own students. The students organised a demonstration in which the townspeople participated and which denounced the Israeli occupation.

Demonstrations continued in Bethlehem University. The students also demonstrated against Israeli settlements. They issued a notice to the "civil" administrator warning against any Israeli intrusion into the university. The Palestinian flag was flown above the university and one student was wounded in clashes which followed.

Villagers to the south east of Jerusalem received written threats signed by settlers from the Israeli fascist Gush Emunim group in an attempt to scare them into leaving the region.

WEST BANK BODIES: U.S. CAMP DAVID BACKS ISRAELI OCCUPATION

On March 13, a document signed by some 50 Palestinian national bodies and institutions in the occupied territories outlines the campaign of the United States — Israeli alliance to usurp Palestinian and Arab land and rights and thereby entrench imperialist hegemony over the region. The document calls for:

- 1 — A unified Arab position supporting the Eastern front of confrontation of Camp David.
- 2 — Marshalling Arab potentials in the service of the just cause of the Palestinian people and in support of the PLO.
- 3 — Reviewing Arab and Palestinian relations in the international arena in the light of various states' position on the Palestine cause.
- 4 — Concentrating on national unity inside the occupied territories in order to bring down the "autonomy" scheme.

Duheisha Refugee Camp under Curfew

On March 10, in Nablus, large demonstrations were organised in the old market place and spread through the major roads. Most of the shops and schools remained closed. An 18-year-old Khalid Resa'a al-Madani was wounded in the leg by Israeli "security" forces. Najjah National University students also staged a huge demonstration to protest the continued presence of Israeli troops along the roads leading to the university. The army once again resorted to machine gun fire and tear gas grenades in an attempt to break the demonstrations. Several students were wounded and hospitalised. At Duheisha refugee camp, stones were hurled at Israeli military vehicles and Israeli settlers. Large demonstrations continued there during which Palestinian flags were raised. The occupation authorities closed down the two schools in the camp for a three-day period.

In Ramallah, demonstrations continued with slogans condemning the Israeli occupation, and again Palestinian flags were flown. At Bethlehem University, the campus demonstrations continued with slogans in support of the PLO and against the Israeli "civil" administration. Barricades were thrown up and stones hurled at Israeli army vehicles. One student was wounded in the head by a grenade fragment. Meanwhile, extremist Kiryat Arba'a settlers of the Gush Emunim movement who were armed, smashed the windows of 35 Palestinian-owned cars in Hebron.

The following day, Israeli troops arrested 30 Israeli



Ramallah youth confronts occupation forces.

members of "Peace Now Movement" in a demonstration in sympathy with a Hebron Arab family which has been harassed by the extremists. In a further repressive move, the Israeli government decided to bar what it called "hostile" journalists from reporting events in the West Bank and to expel those already there. On the same day, Israeli radio savagely attacked *Al-Fajr* and *Al-Sha'ab* newspapers, accusing them of supporting the PLO.

On March 13, the Palestinian journalist Radwan Abu Aysh of the Jerusalem daily *al-Sha'ab* was detained for questioning. The charge against him was for accompanying a Danish journalist to Ramallah to cover events there.

Towards Annexation of the West Bank

Mayors, councillors, trade unions, welfare organisations and other bodies from all over the occupied territories issued a document which denounced the oppressive acts of the Israeli military and "civil" administration. They listed arrests, deportations, land seizures and the closures of newspapers and universities. It stressed that behind these oppressive measures lies the blatant Israeli intention of imposing the "autonomy" scheme which would lead the way to outright annexation, and which has been time and again rejected by the Palestinian people in their entirety. The document further condemned the financing and arming of the quisling "village leagues." A second document, signed by 50 Palestinian national bodies and institutions in the occupied territories outlined the campaign of the U.S.-Israeli alliance to annex the Palestinian land.

During the night of 12-13 March, patriotic forces

attacked the head of the Bethunia "village league" near Ramallah, Farhin Yissa. The traitor Mustafa Dudeen threatened reprisals if more "village league" members were attacked. Later, 30 people from Duheisha refugee camp were arrested for questioning after clashes between the inhabitants of the camp and Israeli troops. Many vehicles on the Bethlehem — Hebron road which runs along the side of Duheisha refugee camp were damaged by stones. The Israelis, resorting to collective punishment, forced all the male population to stand outside in the cold air throughout the evening.

On March 11, in an attack on the popularly-elected local representatives, the Zionist authorities outlawed the National Guidance Committee, a body grouping national Palestinian currents, aligned politically with the PLO. The committee has been under attack for two years now, and has not been able to function properly, due to the expulsion of mayors, the physical attacks on three others and constant house arrests. The members of the committee are liable to 10 years imprisonment. Ibrahim Tawil, mayor of al-Bireh, declared: "The Israeli government is looking for an excuse before public opinion to move out of the way awkward personalities. They have tried in vain to sell to the mayors their autonomy plan. Today, they want to wipe them out."

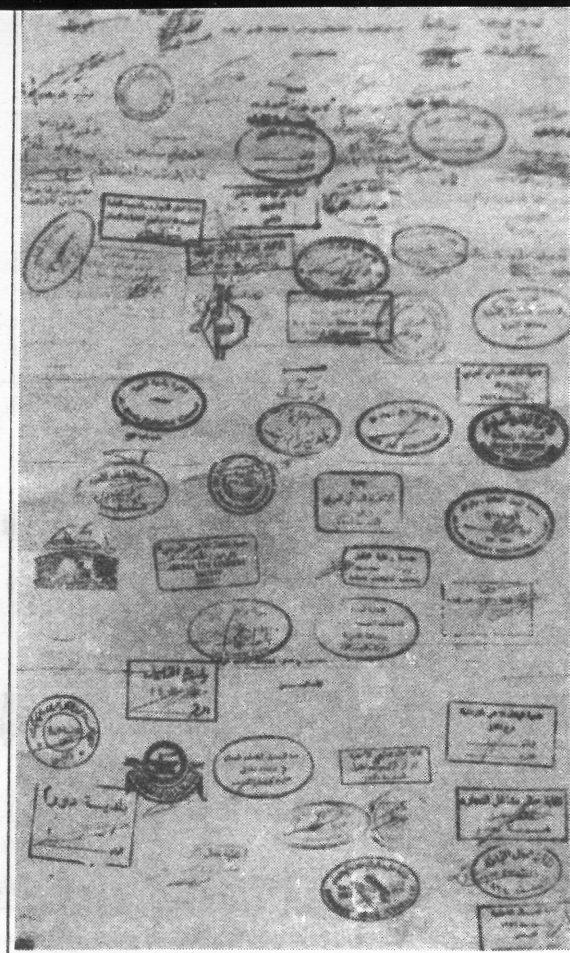
The Israelis have been trying to create an alternative leadership to the PLO with the "village leagues." Recently Begin gave \$20 million to the leagues and armed them with Israeli weapons. They remain very feeble and in answer to Palestinian and Jordanian attacks, the members of these leagues have been resigning. This has prompted the Israelis to further attack the patriotic bodies.

On March 14, despite the collective punishment, an Israeli bus was attacked by the inhabitants of Duheisha in the morning, and at the Palestinian refugee camp of Qalandia, students raised the Palestinian flag and were dispersed violently by Israeli troops.

Meanwhile, another resignation from the so-called "village leagues" took place. Ismail Abdel Fatah al-Harub from Deir Samit near Hebron said he would have nothing else to do with the "league". Despite severe reprisals from the Israeli authorities, the next day nine other members of the "village leagues" in the Hebron area, including three from Beit Awwa, announced their collective resignation from the quiescent bodies. The Palestinian mayors Fahd Qawasmeh of Hebron and Muhammed Milhem of Halhoul, deported in 1980, attacked the "village leagues" as an attempt to replace the PLO. They stressed that these "leagues" do not even represent the villages they are supposed to belong to.

"Village Leagues" Further Slammed

The Israeli English daily *Jerusalem Post* on the same day noted that the Israeli authorities had chosen



National Consensus:
municipality stamps on West Bank communique

for the "village leagues", "the most discredited persons of the West Bank community." The paper went on to say that the "league" leaders were "veritable bandits who are regarded more with disgust than respect."

The general strike in most West Bank towns and villages continued into a second week. In Bethlehem, a Palestinian girl was injured when Israeli troops tried forcibly to disperse a demonstration using tear gas and live ammunition. Barricades were thrown up at the entrances to the town. Bethlehem University declared a week-long strike to protest the wounding of the two students in earlier clashes.

In nearby Sayir village, hundreds of Palestinians took part in a procession of mourning to commemorate the murder of a sixteen-year-old girl from the village by Israeli troops three years ago. In Jerusalem, clashes occurred between demonstrators and Israeli troops and students staged a strike in solidarity with their colleagues at Bir Zeit University.

In Nablus, more than 3,000 Palestinians attended a popular meeting at the National College of al-Najjah to survey the situation. The Israelis tried to prevent delegations from reaching the meeting by setting up road blocks around Nablus. A communique issued after the meeting denounced the Israeli oppression and urged that everyone confront the "village leagues" and all schemes aimed at the liquidation of the Palestinian people.

During the afternoon, Ibrahim Tawil, al-Bireh mayor, and Bassam Shaka'a and Karim Khalaf, mayors of Nablus and Ramallah respectively, refused to meet with the Israeli "civil" administrator of the occupation, Menahem Milson. Karim Khalaf declared: "As elected representatives, we can deal only with the military occupation authorities. We cannot deal with Mr. Milson who acts as if he is the owner of the West Bank." Demonstrations erupted throughout the West Bank to protest the Israeli campaign against the municipalities and national institutions.

On March 16, three inhabitants of Duheisha refugee camp were arrested on their way home from work, and the Israeli authorities issued summonses to several other families. In Bethlehem, students staged huge demonstrations attacking the occupation and supporting the Duheisha camp inhabitants who were in their third day under curfew. Again Israeli troops fired shots and tear gas at the demonstrators, seriously wounding two students. A third student Thabet 'Abeid was abducted and beaten up. Later, Israeli soldiers stormed Bethlehem University, broke down its main gate and dispersed a campus demonstration.

Other demonstrations took place in Beit Sahour, Ramallah, Qalandia and al-Bireh during which demonstrators stoned Israeli military vehicles and erected barricades on the roads. In Ramallah, Israeli troops opened fire on a bus passing through the main square of the town. The driver was badly wounded in the shooting and the vehicle went out of control and crashed through an iron barricade. Fourteen children and ten women passengers were injured. Ramallah citizens who tried to pull the injured from the wreckage were hindered by the "security" troops.

In Nablus, pupils and teachers of the Qadri Tuqan and Hajj Ma'azouz al-Masri schools were summoned for interrogation. The two schools remained under detention. In Hebron, students from the engineering college broke the windows of an Israeli military bus and in Halhoul, a military jeep and Zionist settlers' cars were damaged.

After Zionist settlers from the Shilo colony near Ramallah, tried to blow up the electricity generator of the Palestinian village of Turmus Aiya, school students clashed with the colonists. One pupil was wounded in the arm.

The following day, school students in Jerusalem stayed away from classes and staged street demonstrations. Israeli police patrols were heavily reinforced in various parts of Jerusalem. Further demonstrations took place in al-Bireh and Bir Zeit. In the village of Sanjal, to the north east of Ramallah, Zionist settlers from the Shilo colony fired on Palestinian demonstrators badly injuring two students.

The Israeli authorities meanwhile "punished" the village of Sayir by imposing a curfew on it, after the commemoration march. Repressive sentences and fines were imposed by military courts throughout the

West Bank on the hundreds of people arrested over the previous weeks.

The Uprising Continues

The uprising and the general strike in the West Bank spread to the Gaza Strip on March 20. In Rafah, soon to be torn in half when the Israelis withdraw from Sinai, demonstrations took place in the streets with slogans attacking the "civil administration and in support of the West Bank mayors.

The mass uprising in the occupied homeland on the one hand, and the escalating Zionist terror on the other, tangibly demonstrates that peaceful coexistence with Zionism is an impossibility. The latest measures and decisions taken by the occupation authorities constitute a desperate move to deal a blow to popular resistance to the occupation. This is part of the Zionist — imperialist conspiracy against the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories which aims at containing the struggle, crushing its armed power, and thus opening the way for outright annexation of the occupied territories. This policy must be linked to the Zionist plans to eradicate the Palestinian presence from the occupied territories. This can be clearly seen in the actions of Zionist settlers who attempt to create an atmosphere of terror in order to force Palestinians out of their homes and out of the West Bank.

Despite this savage repression, the Palestinian population all over the occupied territories under the national leadership has confronted, is confronting, and will continue to confront these racist, Zionist schemes and conspiracies.



ZIONIST AUTHORITIES CLIP THE WINGS OF BIR ZEIT

The Israeli occupation authorities issued an order on February 16, 1982 to close Bir Zeit for two months after students clashed with a Zionist education official who had made a provocative visit to the university.

This was the sixth time the university had been closed since the 1967 occupation, the last time being from November 4, 1981, until January, 4, 1982. The latest closures will cost the students four months of the current academic year.

In a news conference held on March 1 in Amman, Hanna Nasser, member of the PLO Executive Committee and former President of Bir Zeit University, urged the international community and all its institutions to stand by Bir Zeit and use all possible means to reopen it.

He said that the clash erupted between the students and the education officer because the later represented the so-called "civil administration" and that the visit was part of an Israeli attempt to implement the amended Education Decree No — 854, denounced and opposed by all the Palestinian nationalist institutions and UNESCO during its 1980 conference. As such, the visit could not be considered legitimate.

Nasser concluded his press statement by saying that the closure of the university is an example of Israeli collective punishment, which is in complete violation of the Geneva conventions. He added that such actions are motivated by an Israeli desire to subjugate Palestinian educational institutions as a means of consolidating and perpetuating the occupation.

Meanwhile, on March 1 and 2, 1982, Dr. Rita Giakaman, Professor of Biology and Biochemistry at Bir Zeit visited Geneva, within the framework of a visit to some European countries.

At a press conference in Geneva on March 2, Dr. Giakaman spoke about the closing down of the University and of the consequences this measure had on the whole life of the region around the University, paralysing most of the economic and social activities and causing wide scale damage to the inhabitants of the region. She stressed on the problem of health, present-



ing the specific activity of the University in this field, with the research and the functioning of a health — dispensary in Bir Zeit — activities which are totally at a standstill with the closing down of the University.

Dr. Giakaman also spoke about the solidarity movement created among the Israeli university professors and students of the Hebraic Universities of Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa and Bir Sabe, with Bir Zeit, as well as against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, and stressed on the importance of such a solidarity movement among the Israeli population itself.

The following letter was published in the British "Times" in its issue of March 19, 1982.

Bir Zeit University

Sir, We wish to draw attention to the plight of Arab students in Israeli occupied territory whose human right to education is effectively denied by Israeli authority, until recently in uniform, now in civilian dress.

All Arab students suffer harassment, but the 2,000 who attend the University of Bir Zeit seem to be singled out for special attention. Closed last November for two months and reopened in January, Bir Zeit has now been closed for a further two months on what are termed "security" grounds.

Tactics like this, coupled with frequent and arbitrary exercise of powers to accept or reject the appointments of lecturers, or to ban the importation of books, make it close to impossible to maintain satisfactory academic standards, and students whose final examinations must be taken this summer are penalized for no fault of their own.

We would like to appeal to all who care for academic freedom to add their protests to those of Jewish Israelis, academics and others, who have braved the tear gas and upheld the honour of Israel by demonstrating in solidarity with the University of Bir Zeit.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID ASTOR,
KENNETH CRAGG,
W K HAYMAN,
ELIZABETH MONROE,
DIANA RICHMOND,
J B RICHMOND,
JOHN A T ROBINSON,
As from: Trinity College,
Cambridge.

The Federation of Arab Universities on March 4 issued a communique strongly condemning the Israeli military authorities' order to close the University and for the second time during this academic year.

The Federation's General Secretary sent letters to the UN General Secretary, the General Director of UNESCO and the Unions of International and African Universities urging them to intervene with the Zionist authorities to reopen Bir Zeit so that it may continue to offer its academic services to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

The closure of the University sparked off demonstrations throughout the West Bank which were brutally suppressed by Israeli "Security" forces. The series of demonstrations grew

into a general uprising which has lasted for two weeks.

In a further move to undermine the Palestinian population, ridding the area of its people its culture and its society, the Israeli occupation authorities imposed a 6 months restriction of movement order on Bir Zeit University Student Council member 'Anan al-Ateera and teacher Mohammad Kamel Jarar on March 17.

'Anan refused to sign the order following the Israeli authorities' refusal to grant her permission to travel to Jerusalem twice a week for medical treatment.

Mohammad Jarar was released from jail two weeks ago after having served a 15 months sentence on charges of affiliation to Fateh.

OCCUPATION

DIARY

ACRE CONFERENCE ON DAY OF THE LAND

A conference to prepare for the sixth anniversary of the Day of the Land (*Yom al-Ard*) was held in Acre at the beginning of March. The participants strongly condemned the Israeli repressive measures against Bir Zeit University, and the annexation of the Golan Heights, while praising the PLO and saluting Hussein Qadri who attended the conference as a representative of Bir Zeit. For the first time in five years, representatives of the Israeli Rakah Party, as well as of the Committee for the Defence of Arab Land, and of the Regional Committee for Local Mayors met together to hold a conference under the slogan of "Land and Housing". The participants confirmed their call for an independent Palestinian state as the only solution to the current political situation.

Addressing the conference, Mahmoud Abu Shanab of the Acre town council in 1948-occupied Palestine said that the Israeli authorities were currently implementing a plan to expel the Arab citizens from Acre and bring in Jewish families instead.

ZIONISTS CONFISCATE MORE ARAB LAND

The Israeli authorities have confiscated 26,000 dunums in the Hebron and Ramallah area, in the occupied West Bank. A further 20,000 dunums of agricultural land from the Surif village near Hebron was stolen on March 16. The land is owned by two hundred Palestinians. The owners say they will oppose the expropriations by all means available as the land is their sole source of livelihood.

Another 600 dunums of Palestinian land near Ramallah were expropriated by the Israeli occupation authorities who plan to build a new Israeli settlement on the land.

The expropriations are the latest in a series of major land seizures in recent months designed to entrench the Israeli colonisation of the West Bank.

ISRAEL THREATENS CLOSURE OF JORDAN BRIDGES

On March 6, Menahem Milson, head of the Israeli "civil" administration, threatened to close down the bridges joining the West Bank and Jordan. This will lead to considerable economic hardship for the people of the occupied territories. In 1981, according to Jordanian sources quoted in the Beirut daily *L'Orient-Le Jour* on March 19, financial transfers across the bridges reached \$240 million.

About 48% of Palestinian industrial production and 60% of agricultural production from the West Bank crosses the bridges towards the Arab countries. The total value of these goods came to \$95 million in 1981.

This latest repressive move by the Israeli authorities will halt the cash flow to Palestinian industry and farming, undermining the Palestinian economy. This is part of the overall Zionist scheme to drive out the Palestinians from the occupied territories to make way for direct annexation.

Collective Punishment à la Sharon:

FAMILIES LOCKED OUT OF THEIR HOMES

The Palestinian weekly Al Fajr (February 5-11, 1982) has revealed the barbaric practices of the Zionist occupation regime towards the Palestinian inhabitants of the West Bank in a series of photographs.

In flagrant violation of the Geneva convention, the homes of families of individuals accused of participating in the Resistance against the occupation by the Israeli army have been demolished or sealed up and the families displaced. Most of the house demolitions occurred after the announcement of Sharon's "iron fist" policy last November. Five house demoli-



"Kamal Tabanjah tries to look through the cement and into his family's sealed home in Qatana, Ramallah district. Israeli authorities used reinforced concrete to seal the Tabanjah family's home as well as two other houses in Hebron on February 1."

tions in Bethlehem, Beit Sahour and al-Jib during that month, raised such strong international condemnation and protest that the Israeli military authorities have changed their method of collective punishment to the less dramatic, but by no means less harrowing, house sealings.

Collective punishment is a favourite form of repression used by the Israeli regime. The thousands of houses and villages razed to the ground, the massacres of Kafr Qasim in 1956 and Samou in 1966 are clear examples of this Zionist tradition. It is part of the widespread campaign of repression executed by the Zionists in order to create an atmosphere of sheer terror and to force people out of their homes in the occupied territories. At this dirty game, Begin is a past master.



"Zahia Ibrahim Jaber, 25, and her three young children were evicted from their home on January 3, when Israeli forces sealed the doors and windows of her one room house in the old quarter of Hebron. Her husband, Ibrahim Jaber, 27, and his brother Ismail, 24, were arrested 27 days ago on suspicion of being involved in a grenade attack on tourists at Jaffa Gate in Jerusalem. Neither men have stood trial but their alleged confessions have been used by the Israelis as reason to retaliate against their families. Zahia, who is 9 months pregnant, has moved with her three young children into the two-room house of her father-in-law Fadel Najee Jaber. Fadel, a labourer, must now support 14 people — soon to be 15."

The cruel sufferings of the Palestinian people portrayed in these photographs from *Al-Fajr* are not isolated events, but daily occurrences in the nearly fifteen years of Zionist military occupation. According to the "Report on Israeli Human Rights Practices in the Occupied Territories During 1981" published in Washington, in 1981 alone, at least 23 homes were destroyed and at least three other homes sealed up on "security" grounds.



Collective punishment is an attempt to break the spirit and unity of a people, but the Palestinian people, with determination and struggle, have remained steadfast and unified in the face of all such attacks.

"Muyassar Wazwaz stands before the cemented entrance to her one-room house. More than 300 soldiers involved in the sealing of her home on the night of Sunday, January 31. She was given 45 minutes to remove all her belongings, some of which were smashed and broken when soldiers barged in. Muyassar's husband of 3 years, Hamdi Adel, was arrested on January 7, and as yet has not been tried. While the flat was being sealed Muyassar and relatives staying with her were kept in another house for four hours during which time no one was even allowed to go to the outside toilet, Muyassar and Hamdi had been renting their home from Hamdi's mother."

WHEN EYES TURN AWAY IN ISRAEL

By Anthony Lewis

The following article appeared in the International Herald Tribune in its issue of March 16, 1982. The writer Antony Lewis is one of many leading Jewish columnists in the United State. We publish the article without any alteration or comment.

JERUSALEM — Ory Bernstein, an Israeli poet and lawyer urged his countrymen recently to do what in fact few of them do: face the reality to military rule in the occupied territories. They should stop averting their eyes, he said, from the way Israel deals with the Arab inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza.

Bernstein made the point in an article about book banning in the occupied territories. He gave extraordinary examples of books that the military authorities have banned at various times.

Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice" in Arabic translation has been on the list. That can presumably be explained by the character of Shylock. But it is a little hard to understand why the authorities should have prohibited Orwell's *1984*. Even more mysterious is the banning of "The Soviet Union in the Middle East" by Walter Laqueur, a critic of Communism who has also written powerfully about the world's failure to rescue Jews from the Holocaust.

Altogether, more than 2,000 books have been on the occupation index. A long list was promulgated by the chief military censor in 1976, with supplements up to last October. All are based on the authority of the British Defense Emergency Regulations of 1945 for mandatory Palestine, which Israel has never repealed.

Dryden

A curious feature of the list — an Orwellian feature, one might say — is that it is not generally published. Someone may be prosecuted for possessing a book that he did not know was prohibited. West Bank universities negotiate with the military command over what books they may buy, yet even some approved books are usually seized when the shipments arrive.

Most of the banned books relate in one way or another to Palestinian nationalism or to terrorism or Communism. But there are titles by Arab writers that experts say must have been included because of ignorance of their character, including works by Egyptian writers who have been advocates of peace with Israel, Tewfik El Hakim and Najib Mahfouz.

Another oddity on the list is a book of Dryden's poems in Arabic translation. Amos Elon, columnist for the Israeli newspaper *Ha-aretz*, wrote sarcastically that perhaps the authorities objected to these lines from "Absalom and Achitophel," a poem in which Dryden satirized 17th-century Britain in mock-political terms:

"And when the chosen people grew more strong.

The righteous cause at length became the wrong."

WHEN EYES TURN AWAY IN ISRAEL

But censorship in the occupied territories touches on a deeper point, and it was made by Bernstein. That is the general failure of Israelis to let themselves see what is happening on the West Bank.

7 1/2 Years

"We have always bitterly complained," Bernstein wrote, "at the complacency of those who looked the other way when we were persecuted throughout the centuries, and have been proud of those who knew and protested. Here, too, those of us who want to know, now — and the complacent majority looks aside."

There are aspects of occupation policy far harsher and less absurd than the book bannings, yet they get little notice, even among many politically conscious Israelis.

Recently a Palestinian was released from prison after being detained without trial for seven and a half years. Ali Jamil was suspected of complicity in a murder but was held without charges because, as the *Jerusalem Post* blandly put it, "Security forces could not produce enough evidence to convict him before a court." The military government finally let him go when faced with a court proceeding — and then ordered Jamil confined to his town of residence.

Numbers of Arab boys aged 14 and up have been arrested, detained in jail for months without charge and questioned in what those who have got out say are abusive terms. David Shipler of the *New York Times* told about the practice in a carefully documented story last month. My guess is that not one Israeli in a thousand knows — allows himself to know — that such things go on.

If someone were detained without charges for seven and a half years in South Africa, Israelis would see the evil. Only a few — there is a concerned minority — are prepared to see it when it occurs under their occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. Indeed, when anyone points such things out, he is likely to run into cries of defensive outrage.

Israel lives in circumstances of danger, historical and present. But they are not an excuse for folly or harshness in the treatment of a conquered people. To the contrary, those who allow their representatives to impose such treatment and who turn their faces away from its reality risk their own souls, in Israel as elsewhere.

An American TV Report Draws Israeli "Protests":

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE OCCUPATION

In the last issue of *Palestine* we reported on recent Israeli attempts to bully foreign correspondents working both in occupied Palestine and in Lebanon. Israel tries to prevent any realistic reports about the increasing cruelty of Israeli repression in the occupied territories, the falseness of its own propaganda, and the murderous results for the people living in Lebanon of Israeli direct and indirect aggression there. One of the reports which drew a string of hypocritical protest, denials and mean accusations from Israeli information officials, was a report on the situation in the occupied West Bank of Palestine carried by the American TV corporation ABC in its "20/20" program early February 1982.

In an instructive letter from its vice-president George Watson to Israeli Information Minister Hurwitz, the ABC has rejected the Israeli propaganda allegations and gave an account on the real situation it found in the West Bank of Palestine. In the following we publish the full text of this letter, which was published in the Beirut *Monday Morning* of March 1, 1982:

Dear Mr. Hurwitz:

I want to reply to your rebuttal of the "20/20" report on the West Bank Arabs which was broadcast February 4th and to some of the other questions raised concerning the preparation and content of the report.

In undertaking this report, we sought to examine how Arab residents of the West Bank viewed the Israeli military occupation and how the responsible Israeli authorities respond to specific complaints and charges raised by many residents. Through extensive research and interviews with Arab residents, we found several major areas of contention which provided the basis for our report, including the Israeli settlement policy, the fairness of military justice and security measures, Israeli policy toward the development of Arab institutions on the West Bank, and control of the West Bank water supply.

During our discussions with Israeli authorities, we sought the opportunity for an on-camera interview with a representative of the military government who could respond on the specific charges raised. Our first choice, of course, was Defense Minister Sharon, who during a lengthy meeting with our producers and correspondent, stated that he was indeed the one person who should speak on these issues. He stipulated, however, that he would not permit his interview to be intercut with those of the Arab residents who were charging the military government with mistreatment. It is ABC News policy that such prior conditions restricting the editing of a news story cannot be given. Nevertheless, we continued to urge that either Defense Minister Sharon or any other military government official, including General Danni Matt or General Ben Eleazar, agree to an on-camera interview. As the meeting ended, we were informed by General Sharon's press represen-

tative that no interview with any of the responsible authorities would be granted.

We were then left with no choice but to state at the beginning and end of the "20/20" report that Israeli officials had refused to appear on camera to address the specific issues raised by the West Bank Arabs. We did, however, express the Israeli point of view at various points in the report as best we could.

After the responsible military officials had declined to be interviewed, Israeli representatives suggested the possibility of interviewing several other persons. None of these, however, had any direct responsibility for administration of the West Bank and therefore could not have addressed the specific issues raised by the Arab residents.

Let me now address the four specific areas covered in your rebuttal.

LAND: Israeli settlements on the West Bank have been condemned by the United Nations as illegal under the Geneva Convention and by the United States government as "obstacles to peace." You concede that "occasionally" it has been necessary to confiscate privately-held land, but say it was only uncultivated land. ABC News observed in at least three settlements which we visited that cultivated land had been taken. We observed grapevines and olive trees that had been bulldozed. The report did, however, include an interview with an Israeli settler who supported the view that all lands being taken were the property of the Israeli government.

According to a variety of reports based on Israeli statistics, approximately 375,000 acres or 27 percent of the West Bank has been transferred to Israeli jurisdiction. What we reported is that many Arab residents believe that their land, and therefore their livelihood, is being taken from them by the Israeli government. Based on statistics, interviews and our own observation, we found the Arab charges to be credible.

Finally, as you subsequently acknowledged, your rebuttal was incorrect in stating that correspondent Tom Jarriel said, "We are now witnessing the final phases of the liquidation of Palestine." That statement was made by economist Ibrahim Mattar.

CULTURAL ACTIVITY: You stated that four new Arab universities have been created since the Israeli occupation. You neglected to point out that three of them were built with private Arab funds and the other with U.S. Roman Catholic Church funds.

We noted several times in the report the Israeli need for security, given the history of conflict in this area. The question, however, as it concerns cultural identity, is to what extent security is used as a rationale for suppressing cultural expression. We found that many Arab residents feel that security has been used as an excuse for stifling their cultural and social identity. They cite many examples of measures taken which have the effect of limiting cultural expression.

We did not report on conditions in West Bank schools, or on the numbers of teachers and pupils. Our investigation, however, found evidence of routine harassment by military authorities of Arab high schools and universities. This has been reported frequently in the Israeli press. Such harassment is often cited by Palestinian Arabs as one among many examples of how the military government impairs development of West Bank institutions.

HEALTH: There may be some question over the size of the population served by the Ramallah Hospital, but whether the

Palestinian or Israeli number is used, the single baby respirator is considered inadequate under accepted medical standards.

Palestinian doctors claim that the infant mortality rate on the West Bank is 70 to 80 per thousand. Israelis claim it is far lower. Since we had no way to confirm independently either of those figures, we noted the disagreement, but used neither number. We did not assume that one set of statistics was more valid or believable than the other.

It has been pointed out that Hadassah Hospital is only 20 minutes away from Ramallah by ambulance and that it is available to West Bank Arabs. Palestinians emphasize what they say is an Israeli hospital. They prefer to use an Arab hospital. It is also in Jerusalem, which requires West Bank citizens to pass through Israeli checkpoints, and in life-threatening situations, minutes obviously count. The point made by those interviewed in our report is that Ramallah has not received the kind of financial support it needs from the Israeli government in order to provide adequate care to those it is intended to serve. As stated in our report, Israeli spending on health services in real terms, adjusted for inflation, has actually declined.

WATER RIGHTS: ABC News found no evidence to support the contention that Arab residents and Israeli settlers have received equal treatment over water resources. A 1980 report for the Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East of the House Foreign Affairs Committee states that, since 1968, the Israeli military administration has "precluded any drilling of wells for irrigation purposes by West Bank farmers." The report also states that "in the Jordan Valley, the concern apparently is to preserve water resources that may be needed to meet the future requirements of Israeli settlements."

According to an Israeli military government study, the 17 Israeli wells on the West Bank pump 30 percent of the water to serve Israeli settlers who comprise only 3 percent of the population. Arab water supplies, on the other hand, have remained the same since 1967 because, as you point out, no new Arab wells have been drilled. In addition, there is a legitimate debate over whether Israeli deep bore wells deplete the Arab water supply.

We reported that the dispute over water rights in the Jordan Valley represents "one of the most basic Palestinian charges of Israeli injustice." And we believe the example we used was a fair representation of the one-side competition for water supplies in that area.

In summary, we have fully reexamined the "20/20" report in the light of the serious allegations made in your rebuttal of it. We have concluded that our report was a fair and accurate examination of the beliefs and complaints of West Bank Arabs. We reported no charges that we felt could not be arguably substantiated. We stated the Israeli position on key points. It was unfortunate that the responsible Israeli military authorities declined to be interviewed, but that was their decision. Therefore, we must reject the charges of bias, distortion and slander made in your rebuttal.

Whenever ABC News has reported extensively on the Middle East situation, we have been condemned by one side or the other. To imply that for any reason, we have taken sides or that we have been intentionally biased is ridiculous. We stand by this report, and we stand on our record of full, fair and accurate reporting.

Sincerely yours,
George Watson

13,000 GOLAN ARABS TO GO ON STRIKE

The general strike of the Arab citizens of the Golan against the Israeli annexation has entered its fifth week. The population has consistently renewed their unequivocal rejection of any attempts to end the month-long strike and to impose Israeli identity cards on the Syrian nationals.

Radio Israel has admitted that pressures exerted by the Israeli military authorities on the people of the Golan Heights had been completely unsuccessful, and that the inhabitants remain steadfast in their opposition to the annexation and the attempts to impose Israeli citizenship.

The strike began on February 12, when four leading personalities were detained in prison. Progressive Israeli lawyer Felicia Langer has repeatedly protested about the deplorable prison conditions at the prison. After ten days in solitary confinement, Kamal Kanj Abu Saleh (68), one of the detained national leaders, had to be taken to the hospital at the Ramleh Central Jail suffering from heart problems.

The Israelis have carried out a systematic campaign of repression in an attempt to break the strike. The Zionists have imposed a military blockade of the Golan, erecting road blocks and barricades on the

NEW ISRAELI SETTLEMENT IN GOLAN

Since the annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights on December 14, 1981, the Zionist military authorities have planned to build four new settlements to add to the 31 already in existence.

During the fourth week of the current general strike, to protest the annexation, the Israeli settlements ministry ordered the levelling of 600 dunums of Arab land in the Golan for a new settlement to be named Kiryat Zvi. The stolen land is to be used for planting an apple orchard.

Since 1967, 12,500 people have fled the Golan Heights, under Zionist terrorism. Recently the Zionists have suggested a mass deportation of the remaining 13,000 inhabitants. The Israelis want to rid all the occupied territories of their rightful population in an attempt to create another "land without a people" situation.



Israelis seal off Golan

roads leading to the major villages and have decreed a travel ban on the Golan Arabs. The area is sealed off to all outsiders including the press. The Israeli War Minister even refused to allow Knesset member Tawfiq Toubi and members of his group to visit the Golan Heights. Essential supplies such as milk for babies, medicines and fuel have been prevented from reaching Golan villages.

According to Israeli radio on March 11, five Arab women were brought before a military court on charges of tending their flocks outside their villages without getting a permit. The Israeli occupation army has, throughout the strike, detained a number of villagers charging them with leaving their homes without permission from the authorities.

On March 13, two more Arab citizens were arrested, on charges of refusing to end the strike, bringing the total number of those detained to eleven. The two arrested, were the prominent Golan personality Hayil Hussein Abu Jabal and his brother Adel. They are to be held for an initial period of three months.

A curfew was placed on the principal Golan village Majdel Shams for three days and four young people were arrested. The Israelis have also dismissed more than 80 Arab workers from the Solel Boneh Construction Company for their support of the strike.

The Israeli Interior Minister has signed a decree that the Golan Arabs have until April 1 to accept and carry Israeli ID cards or severe reprisals would be taken with fines of up to 15,000 Shekels and house arrests. It should be recalled that Israeli Communications Minister Zippori has threatened that those who refuse Israeli IDs should be deported to Syria.

In response, the Arab citizens of the Heights decided to start an open hunger strike on April 1. The citizens are determined to continue their strike despite all Israeli attempts to break it.

WAR AND PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

U.S. MERCENARIES SHARE IN ISRAELI AGGRESSION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

The United States is expanding the scale of its interference in the flashpoints of tension throughout the Middle East. Further evidence is the emergence of American "private" mercenaries in the southern borderstrip of Lebanon, occupied by Israel since its invasion of the country in March 1978. Israeli units and right-wing "Lebanese" militia equipped and paid by Israel, have ever since used the strip to launch attacks against Lebanese and Palestinian targets. Israeli troops have also reinforced their various tank and artillery positions in the area in preparation for a wide-scale aggression to the north.

In a report of March 22, the U.S. magazine *Newsweek* quotes "a senior United Nations official" from the UNIFIL peace-keeping forces in the area saying that the Israeli-backed "militiamen are murderers." The *Newsweek* report also provides some details on the role of the U.S. mercenaries. Although actions by American "soldiers of fortune" are not publicised, the magazine learnt from "intelligence sources" that the number of Western mercenaries in southern Lebanon, armed with Israeli weapons, has now reached several dozens. Most of them are Americans recruited in the United States. One of the cutthroats — Joe Keysor, 29, of Evanston, Ill., a former U.S. army serviceman — openly told the magazine's correspondent that he enrolled after watching in the United States film advertising operations by military units of the separatists who play the part of Israeli agents in Lebanon.

Newsweek stresses that the U.S. authorities are well aware of the presence of American mercenaries in Lebanon. Nevertheless, Washington turns a blind eye to this fact. The cause of the U.S. administration's position is clear. It fully corresponds to Washington's course towards preserving and further aggravating the explosive situation in Lebanon and encouraging Israel to new acts of armed aggression against that sovereign country. Separatist groupings in southern Lebanon, which are being reinforced by gangs of mercenaries, play the part of a "Trojan Horse" in these expansionist plans.

U.S. CAMPAIGN OF PROVOCATION AGAINST LIBYA

The Reagan administration has stepped up its sabre-rattling against Libya. On March 16, the U.S. Navy Secretary Lehman announced that the U.S. Sixth Fleet would conduct "exercises"

in the Gulf of Sidra, off the Libyan coast in the Mediterranean Sea "within the next six months." It should be recalled that last August 1981, U.S. warplanes shot down two Libyan reconnaissance planes over the Gulf of Sidra in a direct provocation of Libya.

These latest threats follow the restrictions on trade with Libya, imposed by the U.S. last year, and the trade ban on nearly 150,000 barrels of Libyan oil a day which was decided by the National Security Council on February 26.

It is clear that Washington is escalating its campaign of provocation and threats against Libya, because this country stands against imperialist interference in the region, and, together with the PLO and the other members of the "Front for Steadfastness", strives for a just peace in the Middle East distinct from the Camp David farce.

U.S. GIs LAND IN SINAI, BRITISH ARMY "BACK", TOO

On March 17, 670 GIs from the 505th infantry battalion of the 82nd U.S. airborne division landed at Sharm al-Sheikh, southern Sinai. Most significantly, the U.S. soldiers were flown in by an Israeli "El-Al" jet. They took up strategic positions in the Israeli-occupied Sinai peninsula due to be "liberated" at the end of April. The U.S. infantry troopers, which are at the same time part of the U.S. "Rapid Deployment Forces" for military intervention in the Middle East, are the first contingent of the 1,500 or so U.S. soldiers to take over strategic zones in the Sinai, under the cover of a so-called "multinational police force". The forces will be commanded by a Norwegian NATO general, Frederik Bull-Hansen, with the overall direction being taken care of by a "civilian" director, a U.S. military officer. The bulk of the rest of the soldiers comes from countries in Latin America and the Pacific closely allied with the United States, in addition to token contingents from France, Great Britain, Italy and Holland which are to serve as the "European" fig-leaves for the U.S.-led occupation force.

In a comment of March 8, 1982, on the British participation in the force, the British *Guardian* noticed, that for the first time "since a quarter of a century" the "British Army is back in Sinai..." All this at a time, when Israel is taking a more and more provocative line even in its relations with Egypt, while daily extending its threats and provocations against the Palestinian people and all its Arab neighbors.

A COVER FOR ANNEXATIONIST MOVES IN THE WEST BANK

The Begin government has mounted a destabilization campaign against Lebanon in tandem with its moves in March towards de facto annexation of the West Bank. The Lebanese aspect of current aggressive Israeli policy has had two components designed to deflect international attention as well as the PLO's focus away from very rapid attempts to consolidate Israel's hold on the West Bank. One component has been a propaganda war threatening an Israeli military invasion of Lebanon. The other facet has been actual Israeli military provocations against southern Lebanon combined with a wave of terrorist bomb attacks in the national Lebanese areas and other destabilizing attempts provoked by Israel's local Lebanese agents.

The Propaganda War

Beginning at the end of February the Zionist media began to attack foreign journalists covering events in Lebanon implying that Western press coverage of Israeli aggressive moves was not portrayed favorably due to "terrorist" threats against the lives of journalists (see *Palestine*, Feb. 15 - March 15, 1982, P. 25). Western journalists based in Beirut specifically denied that they felt threatened by the PLO. But the object of the Begin government campaign was to put into question any reporting of Israeli moves against Lebanon. The campaign has since taken a new twist with new attacks on Western reportage of the Zionist moves to impose the civil administration in the West Bank.

What the Begin government would like Western journalists to report about Lebanon is that the "security" of the Zionist state is threatened on its northern border by a supposed build-up of Palestinian and Syrian forces and a string of ceasefire violations. However, the actual facts don't easily add up to allow for this formulation since the threat comes from the Begin government itself.

On March 11, Israeli "military sources" disseminated reports stating that Syria had set up an observation post in Beaufort Castle in southern Lebanon which has long been controlled by the Lebanese-Palestinian Joint Forces. In fact, a spokesman for United Nations forces in the south had announced the same day the UNIFIL was setting up an observation post in Beaufort as part of the thickening of

UN forces authorized by the UN Security Council. The Beaufort Castle fabrication did not deter Zionist Foreign Minister Shamir from claiming on March 15 that the situation in southern Lebanon was explosive due to "the presence of 30,000 Syrian soldiers in Lebanon and 20,000 armed Palestinian guerilla forces which gravely endangers peace in the region."



Begin: once a terrorist, always a terrorist

Reports from Lebanese correspondents in the south on March 15 tell a different story. The same day as Shamir's new threat observers in the south noted that Israeli forces were consolidating military positions all along the border. The Israeli army had in the previous three days amassed tanks along the border and inside Lebanese territory in the occupied border strip on the hills near Metulla. A *Reuters* correspondent reported that Israeli troops had just installed a new electronic early warning system on Lebanese territory (notice at the same time, the Zionist information media was levelling this accusation against Syria). The *Reuters* correspondent further reported that Israeli troops had been observed in the vicinity of the Marjeyoun gap. The gap is the area where no UNIFIL soldiers are posted and is the area which observers believe would be a likely staging ground for an Israeli invasion.

After the fabrication of Syrian troops in Beaufort Castle, came a charge from the Begin government that in the previous two weeks there had been Palestinian commando operations against the occupied Lebanese border strip in addition to shelling of Israeli naval patrols. Operations against the border strip were again dismissed by UNIFIL forces in the south as a blatant fabrication. As for the shelling, Israeli naval patrols indeed attempting to impose a blockade against the southern Lebanese ports of Tyre and Sidon.

On the subject of ceasefire violations, the Lebanese-Palestinian Joint Forces were able to furnish a whole inventory of Israeli violations. The inventory was again repeated by Fateh Central Committee member Abu Jihad at a press conference on March 19. According to the records of the Joint Forces in south Lebanon, Israeli forces committed 196 operate violations of the south Lebanon cease fire during the period 1 August 1981 to 1 March 1982. These include 28 artillery bombardments, 22 instances of heavy machine gun fire, three incidents involving explosives, including the sinking of a ship this week in Tyre harbour, the destruction of three houses, and five cases of kidnapping of Lebanese civilians. During the same period, there were 68 Israeli overflights of Lebanon at low altitude, 35 cases of naval vessels patrolling close to the Lebanese coast, from Tyre to Beirut, and off Tripoli, and 30 instances of the fortification of military positions or the creation of new ones.

Internal Destabilization: Terrorist Car Bomb Attacks

While south Lebanon is the object of the Zionist propaganda war and a continuing series of military provocations, the other regions of Lebanon controlled by Lebanese progressive forces have been slated for a wave of terror. At the end of February, in conjunction with the Zionist threats against the south, Beirut was gripped by a series of bomb attacks which killed 14 and seriously wounded another 100 people in less than two weeks.

On Saturday March 6, a car bomb exploded on a road leading out of the city to the south, just at the time that the road was packed with Lebanese families leaving Beirut for the weekend. In this one blast from 25 lbs. of explosives loaded in a car parked by the roadside, six people were killed and 17 were wounded. The victims included women and children. The blast occurred less than a hundred yards from the spot where another car bomb exploded the weekend before, killing four and wounding another 17 people. On February 23, two car bombs exploded simultaneously in a crowded seaside market area of Beirut killing four and wounding over 50 people. The bomb blasts have all occurred in the vicinity of checkpoints manned by the Syrian Arab Deterrent Forces, but the victims have all been innocent civilians.



Terrorist destruction in Raouche, Beirut

LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER: "U.S. RESPONSIBLE"

At a huge rally in commemoration of Kamal Junblatt, the former leader of the Lebanese National Movement assassinated in 1977, Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al Wazzan, usually cautious in criticizing the United States, openly blamed the U.S. government for the continued destabilization and ordeal of Lebanon. Speaking only a few days after the end of U.S. "special envoy" Philip Habib's latest tour of the region, Prime Minister Wazzan declared:

"The United States is sending one envoy after the other to invite us to reason and calm, while at the same time this country furnishes Israel with the most sophisticated arms and assures it total military, political and diplomatic cover. We say frankly that the U.S. are responsible in the first place for the misfortunes which the Arabs in general, and the Lebanese and the Palestinian peoples in particular go through. And a ceasefire will not manage to excuse that country in our eyes. What could exculpate it, is the suspension of the support it furnishes (to Israel) and to dissuade that state from attack; it would be capable to do so."

Later in March foreign diplomatic missions became the target of the car bomb attacks. On March 16, a car bomb exploded in the Ramlet al-Baida quarter of Beirut near a number of diplomatic missions. One



...and Ramlet al-Baida

person was killed and 15 were injured. As we go to press, more bombs have been discovered throughout the city.

While the perpetrators of the wave of bomb attacks are not specifically known, the timing of the attacks makes the intent clear. The aim is to sow confusion in the national Lebanese areas and sabotage security measures currently being implemented to strengthen military and political unity on the Lebanese-Palestinian level. Another aspect is to drive a wedge between the Palestinians and Lebanese on the one side and the Syrian Arab Deterrent Force which is the legal guardian of overall security. This psychological terror with innocent civilian victims could be in preparation for a wider aggression either directly by the Israeli army in southern Lebanon or by the Israeli backed Phalangist forces in East Beirut and to the north.

On March 18, the progressive Beirut daily *al-Nida'* again reported that the Phalangist Party was continuing to coordinate with Israel on an impending attack against Lebanon. The paper reported that in the previous 48 hours, the Phalangist militia had been mobilized and the reserve forces called up obligatorily. Large numbers of militia men were deployed along the demarcation lines in Beirut, the foothills of Sannin and on the outskirts of Byblos. The newspaper quoted security sources as saying that a number of Israeli experts had been actively supervising the

Phalangist preparations. The day before the Phalangist politbureau stepped down from the party leadership in favor of a newly created military-political operations room headed by the military commander of the Phalange, Bashir Gemayel.

In the following two days, indeed clashes broke out in the north between the Phalange and forces belonging to former Lebanese President Suleiman Frangie. A day later serious clashes occurred in the Sannin foothills between the Phalange and forces of the Lebanese National Movement.

Once again the stage is set for Lebanon to explode. The PLO leadership has warned of a possible Israeli invasion since December and confirmation of such a plan which would have American backing has been splashed across the pages of the international press. But the attack has already begun with the internal destabilization of Lebanon. And now the full extent of the aggression is evident with the decided Zionist annexation moves against the West Bank. The Palestinians in the occupied territories have responded to the attack by continuous rejection of the civil administration, mass demonstrations and general strikes which are continuing. The PLO and the Lebanese National Movement have strengthened security measures and their preparedness for any eventuality. The situation now demands a like response by international progressive forces.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE MARTYR KAMAL JUMBLATT



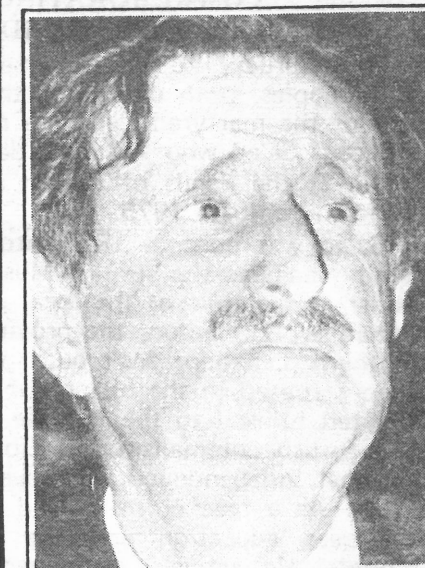
International tribute to the martyr

A large popular rally was organised on March 16, by the Progressive Socialist Party in All'ay to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the assassination of its leader Kamal Jumblatt, the former leader of the Lebanese National Movement.

Kamal Jumblatt was gunned down on March 16, 1977, by unknown assailants, near his home village of Mukhtara in the Shouf region of Lebanon. Born in December 1917, Jumblatt left his imprint on Lebanese political life for nearly thirty years, when he was elected to Parliament in 1946.

A constant advocate of changing the Lebanese confessional system, which divides government posts along religious lines, he fought for an advanced democratic pluralism, an open socialism and a free Arab unity, and in 1949, he founded the Progressive Socialist Party to struggle for these aims. As a socialist, it was he who lifted the 25-year ban on the Lebanese Communist Party, and in 1972 he was awarded the Soviet Lenin Peace Prize.

Led by Kamal Jumblatt, Lebanon's patriotic and progressive forces issued a platform calling for "democratic reform of the political system" in the country. The platform was presented on August 18, 1975, by Jumblatt himself as leader of the Nationalist and Progressive Forces in Lebanon, better known as the "National Movement" — a political front comprising some twelve radical and leftist parties and groupings, including Socialists, Communists, Baathists, Nasserites and syrian nationalists.



The martyr Kamal Jumblatt

Those attending the fifth anniversary rally, included Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan along with other ministers and parliamentary deputies, the leadership of the Lebanese National Movement, the head of the Arab Deterrent Force in Lebanon, representatives of the Amal movement and leaders of the Palestinian Resistance. The Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon Alexander Soldatov also attended the rally.

Walid Jumblatt, the son of the martyr and present leader of the LNM, said: "Any political solution (to the Lebanese crisis) must be preceded by a complete rupture with Israel and by a renunciation of all partitionist and sectarian projects." He went on, "The solution to the Palestinian crisis will be the recognition of the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

Muhsin Ibrahim, General Secretary of the LNM, affirmed the refusal of the LNM to view the Palestinian Resistance as on the same level as the Israeli-backed Haddad separatists in south Lebanon. He said that the Lebanese crisis was not a Lebanese-Syrian crisis or a Lebanese-Palestinian one, but an Arab-Israeli one.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat saluted the martyr and commented, "the Israeli enemy has imposed a blockade on the Lebanese coast with the aid of the U.S. Sixth Fleet. The Israeli aggression has been held up not by any American decision, but by the stand of a friend beside us. The military strength of the Lebanese - Palestinian Joint Forces is what prevents it."

Prime Minister Wazzan assailed the U.S. as responsible for the troubles in the Arab world in general and the Lebanese and Palestinian arenas in particular.

COMMEMORATING MA'AROUF SA'AD

On February 26, the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, both celebrated the 7th anniversary of the martyred Lebanese national leader, Ma'arouf Sa'ad who was shot dead in a covert action at the hands of Zionist and imperialist agents in February 1975.

Sa'ad was born in 1910 into a well-known family; he was the son of Mustafa Sa'ad, the leader at the time of the local patriotic forces centered around Sidon, the provincial capital of southern Lebanon. Ma'arouf's whole life was deeply rooted in the history of Sidon, and he devoted himself to the struggle against French and British colonialism and Zionism, for Arab national independence and development in all fields. As a teacher he played a great role in Lebanese education and the foundation of schools. He actively supported the emerging Lebanese National Movement (LNM) as he defended the Palestinian Resistance.

He fought on two major arenas for Lebanon's independence on the one hand and for the liberation of Palestine. He started his struggle against the British authorities in Palestine in 1936, side by side with the Palestinian leaders Mufti Amin Husseini and Sheikh Hassan Salameh, and with militants for the independence of Lebanon, Riyad Solh and his contemporaries. He was wounded and arrested by the French authorities in 1942. He held various important political and social posts, a Deputy in the Lebanese Parliament, Mayor of Sidon and a leader of the LNM in Sidon. This national leader gave his life struggling for social justice to help the poor Lebanese and in supporting the Palestinian cause.

Having this national record, Sa'ad was the target of imperialist and Zionist conspiracies,



The late militant Ma'arouf Sa'ad.

and he was murdered when joining a demonstration, organized by fishermen in Sidon in 1975. This terror operation was one of the events by which the Lebanese Civil War was deliberately provoked.

In commemorating the LNM leader, the Information Committee of the Federation of Trade Unions and Cultural Societies in Sidon announced a full programme of political and cultural activities including political seminars, photographic exhibitions, poetry readings and mass rallies, in which senior representatives from the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement made speeches praising the martyred leader for his sacrifices for Lebanon and Palestine and stressed on the essential principles for which Sa'ad was struggling. He fell before these were accomplished, passing the torch to the hands of the militants in the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement.

In Sidon today, the Ma'arouf Sa'ad Foundation also sponsors a series of important social institutions like an elementary school clinic, and a kindergartenn, holding high the reminiscence of an exemplary national personality. His son, Mustafa Sa'ad, is now the leader of the Lebanese National Movement in the south of the country and continues the work of his late father.

AL-KARAMEH:

THE BATTLE WHICH TURNED HISTORY

March 21, 1968 was an outstanding turning point in the history of the Palestinians' struggle to regain their usurped land. Thirteen years ago, 15,000 Israeli troops moved under air support to crush the newly born Palestinian Revolution. The battle field was al-Karameh village just 3 km across the Jordan River on its eastern bank. There were some 400 Palestinian fighters lightly equipped. The objectives on both sides were fixed. On the Israeli side the orders were to crush the newly born hope of the Palestinian and Arab peoples and maintain the legend of the invincible Israeli soldier. The Fedayeen had no choice but to fight, to sacrifice and to emerge victorious.

The confrontation, the first of its type, was inevitable. The result with reference to numbers

was unpredictable. The Israeli "promenade" began. Tanks moved. Canons roared and bombs exploded. The "promenade" was interrupted. Tanks were blocked and set on fire. Israeli soldiers fled. Those who didn't succeed were left flat on the ground. Israeli helicopters landed. Corpses were transferred. The "promenade" came to a sad end. The Palestinian fighters survived. At the end of the battle the casualties were amazing; 200 Israeli solidiers were killed or wounded; 90 Palestinian fighters fell martyrs.

The news of the victory spread like wild fire, the Palestinian refugee camps ecstatic, Arab capitals rejoiced. Thousands of Palestinian and Arab youth poured into the Palestinian training camps. The image of Israel post-June 1967 was shaken. The Palestinian people under the leadership of its sole legitimate representative the PLO, is realizing more success on the path of victory.

ZIONISM IN PRACTICE

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

Journalists and foreign correspondents covering events in occupied Palestine are being subject to demeaning harrassment by the Zionist authorities. This includes unwarranted arrests to prevent them from reporting effectively on the practices of the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people.

The authorities on March 6, arrested the editor of the French magazine *l'Express*, Yves Cue, and the magazine's correspondent in the occupied territories Bernard Ullman. The two journalists were held for an hour and their films and notes on the day's demonstration in Nablus, during which two students were wounded, were confiscated.

Meanwhile, journalists are still being prevented from entering the occupied Golan Heights, in order to report on the oppressive situation there. This repressive campaign against foreign journalists should be seen in the context of the widescale Israeli propaganda campaign against reporting the truth about Zionism in the mass media. *Palestine* (Vol. 8. no. 4-5) revealed the Zionist campaign against the foreign correspondents in Beirut, Lebanon. According to the British *Guardian's* correspondent David Hirst, the Begin government would have no "moral scruples" about "assassinating a foreign correspondent."

ZIONISTS TRY TO BLOCK JEWISH BEQUEST TO PLO

The *New York Times*, on March 8, reported that a Jewish journalist who died a year ago has left \$30,000 to the PLO. Two Zionist organizations are trying to block the transference of the bequest.

The journalist was Fred Sparks, a Jew who reported on post - World War II Europe for the *Chicago Daily News* and he reported also on the plight of Palestinian refugees in 1948, who suffered and still suffer from the terrorist gangs of now Prime Minister Begin and his Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

The Zionist organizations that challenged the will are the American Jewish Congress, the Anti-Defamation league of B'nai B'rith and the New York State attorney general's office.

This Zionist action clearly reveals persecution and contempt of the most basic human rights and personal affairs even after death in the case of the Jewish journalist Sparks. The Zionists are using the bequest in a contrived lawsuit for propaganda against the PLO, describing it as a terrorist group and pretending that if the PLO

won this case, it would harm the public good in the U.S.

In another Zionist move, a plan had been made to question the PLO observer at the United Nations, Zuhdi Tarazi, who said that he will attend the hearings scheduled in Surrogate's Court. Tarazi commented on the lawsuit saying: "This is a violation of Mr. Sparks' rights to dispose of his funds according to his wishes".

JAPANESE-MADE WEAPONS FOR ISRAEL - OFFICIAL

In issue vol. 8 no. 4-5 of *Palestine*, we revealed that Japan had been supplying Israel with war material - specifically patrol boats and multi-purpose ships. The Japanese government officially denied these reports.

On February 18, 1982, a major Japanese newspaper *Asahi Shinbun* quoted excerpts from the Budget Committee debates in the Japanese House of representatives:

Q: Kusakawa (Komei (Buddhist) Party) "According to *Jane's Annual - Navy edition*, four Israeli patrol boats armed with 20 mm automatic guns were made in Japan. Does the Transportation Ministry, which checked the exports, confirm this?"

A: Kosaka (Transport Minister) "It is a fact that those boats are made in Japan."

Q: Kusakawa "Mr. Hasnaa, then Secretary General of the Arab League, requested Japan to investigate the matter in 1968."

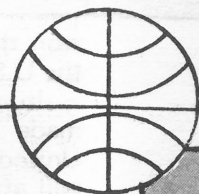
A: Noguchi: (Head of Shipping Department of Transport Ministry) "We examined the exports to Israel between 1968 and 1969. But, it was not clear whether they were considered as weapons or not. I think it was checked by the Administrative Regulation for exporting and trading if the exports would conflict with the Three Principles on weapons export."

- Note: Exporting weapons is strictly forbidden by Japanese Law.

Q: Kusakawa "It means Japan is exporting such ships as recorded in *Jane's Navy Annual* to Israel as 'multipurpose cargo vessels'."

A: Noguchi: "Seven vessels were directly exported to Israel. There were another two vessels indirectly exported to Israel through Liberia. So, the total number of the vessels is about nine."

It should be remembered that Japan voted against sanctions on Israel in the Emergency meeting of the UN General Assembly on February 5.



SALVADORAN GUERRILLAS STEP UP THEIR OFFENSIVE

El Salvador's ruling military junta has launched an intensive campaign to persuade the people that parliamentary elections scheduled on March 28 could help to end the civil war. However, the poll is a fraud designed to maintain in power a small clique of U.S.-backed exploiters.

In an interview with Ferman Cienfuegos, a commander of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front held in Managua on March 6 National Liberation Front, said that the Salvadorean liberation forces are going ahead with plans to escalate their offensive before the sham election and called for a popular uprising to make the fraud impossible to carry out, and build a truly democratic state.

Cienfuegos said thahe fully supports the electoral process but not until after a negotiated end to the fighting. The current government has refused negotiations with the liberation forces. The liberation forces have expressed that they are willing to negotiate without prior conditions in talks that would include the government junta, the military and other interested sectors in El Salvador. They have made public their programme for the kind of coalition government they would like to emerge from the talks. However, the military junta has rejected all proposals for serious talks, insisting that the political solution to the Salvadorean carnage lies in the coming elections, which posture is fully backed by Washington. "With a fascist dictatorship," the commander said, "the only way to get them to understand anything is with force."

The liberation forces are stepping up their offensive at a time when the Salvadorean army, in spite of the growing military aid from Washington appears especially weak after the unsuccessful battle around the Guazapa Volcano last month.

On March 15, the Salvadorean guerrillas carried out a well-coordinated attack on a major sector of San Salvador. The liberation fighters held a large section of the area just north of the city's center. The confused government forces, did not manage to surround them. About two and half hours after the attack began, the guerrillas withdrew with minimal losses.

While the liberation front well coordinated attacks throughout El Salvador, the government troops step up their violence against the local population. In San Benito, 40 miles southeast of San Salvador, at least 20 unarmed peasants were killed during an army operation earlier this month. Fourteen skulls lying in a field and in two wells where shown to reporters as evidence of their deaths. In San Vicente province, 45

COMMANDO LEADER REVEALS ISRAELI INVOLVEMENT IN SALVADOR WAR

On March 17, the Lebanese newspaper *As-safir* published an interview with Lt. Colonel Martell, a member of the Central Committee of the Farabundo Marti Front for the national liberation of Salvador. The Salvadorean leader revealed that Israel was as deeply involved as the U.S. in his country's civil war. He told *As-Safir* that Salvadorean freedom fighters destroyed four Israeli aircrafts in an attack on San Salvador's airport earlier this year. Israel has also sent experts in psychological and terror warfare and espionage to help the U.S.-backed dictatorship in its genocidal war against the Salvadorean people. During this war in Salvador, 30,000 people have died in two years and hundreds of thousands have fled the country.

miles east of San Salvador a woman and two children were shot dead by an infantry brigade on March 12.

On March 8, Amnesty International accused the government forces in El Salvador of committing most of the thousands of abuses of human rights, including torture, murder and disappearance among the civilian population. In a special supplement to its monthly news letter, the human rights organization said that victims included not only people suspected of opposition to the authorities, but thousands who were simply in the areas targeted for security operations, whose death or mutilation seemed to have been completely arbitrary.

All branches of government forces were reported to be implicated — military, police and paramilitary units acting in conjunction with them, Amnesty said. It cited details of every recent disappearances and killings, noting that the Archbishop of San Salvador, Arturo Rivera y Damas, had estimated the deaths of 12,000 noncombattants last year. Among the catalogue of atrocities repeatedly reported by eye-witnesses were the decapitation of unarmed civilians, mutilations and the machine-gunning of women and children by military helicopters.

Among the testimonies quoted by Amnesty were: "The soldiers burned our house in June... They killed my niece pregnant with her first child... and threw the foetus to the dogs." Another victim said: "It was the *Guardia*, they killed my father; they cut his throat, then they raped me, all of them... they raped my 15-year old daughter too... and they slashed at my throat and threw me on top of him to die."

Amnesty emphasized that killing and torture was still going on.

ANOTHER U.S. SMEAR ATTEMPT UNMASKED

Once again, the Reagan administration's false evidence to "prove" that the Nicaraguan government and Cuba are directly involved in El Salvador has been exposed. The campaign they began recently shows that the present U.S. government is ready to resort to the cheapest lies in order to find a public pretext for an aggression against Nicaragua.

First there was Haig's particular Nicaraguan, identified as Ligdamis Gutierrez, who had been captured in February near the Guatemalan border. They said he had escaped three days before Haig briefed the Congress. Later the Mexican embassy announced that he was a student at Mexico's Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon and was simply travelling back for school when arrested. Then there were two Nicaraguan air force defectors who were scheduled to bear witness to their country's involvement in El Salvador, but later they were judged "not ready" to face the press.



Tardencilla at press conference:
"Confession" obtained through torture

Finally on February 12, the State Department proudly trotted out the 19-year-old Orlando Jose Tardencillas Espinoza, a Nicaraguan who had been captured in El Salvador by government forces in January last year. They prepared him to meet the press in the belief that he would confess he had been sent to El Salvador by Nicaragua to help direct the guerrillas after having received military training in Ethiopia and Cuba. Instead when finally out in public, he said that the confession had been obtained through torture. He said: "They have tried through certain psychological coercion to force me to say

things about what is happening in El Salvador. In Fact, an official in the U.S. embassy told me that they needed to demonstrate the presence of Cubans in El Salvador. They gave me an option... I would come here, or face certain death." He also denounced the U.S.-backed government of El Salvador as criminal and fascist. Tardencillas stressed that he had gone to El Salvador out of personal conviction and not because he had been sent by Nicaragua.

On March 14, the State Department turned him over to the Nicaraguan Embassy and a few hours later he boarded a flight to Nicaragua where he was received by a large public. He was acclaimed over the radio as "an international hero of the Central American Revolution." Tardencillas left behind a situation that a State Department official described as a "state of turmoil". The administration's aim was to convince the public that it has solid "reasons" to intervene directly in Central America. Tardencilla confession left the State Department shaken,

Another "proof" of Nicaragua's alleged repression against the local population turned out to be farcical. A two page colour photograph had earlier been published in the French *Figaro* Magazine in early February depicting bodies burning in a ball of fire which Haig cited as evidence of "genocidal actions" against ethnic Indians in Nicaragua. On February 19, Haig speaking in Bal Harbour after a meeting with AFL and CIO officials drew the members' attention to the photograph "which showed the most atrocious genocidal actions that are being taken by the Nicaraguan government against their Indian population, along the east coast... where wholesale slaughter of peoples is occurring, and the immolation of human corpses were evidenced in these photographs." In its last issue the French satirical weekly *Le Canard Enchaîné* revealed that the photographs cited by Haig were taken four years ago, in 1978, and actually represent victims of combats during the Sandinista revolution being burned by Red Cross officials as a hygienic measure. Later the editor of *Figaro* Magazine conceded that "it was a mistake."

ZIONISTS TRAIN HONDURAN REGIME IN TERROR TACTICS

A large number of Israeli pilots and military experts are training the army and air force of the repressive Honduran regime, the Nicaraguan newspaper *El Nuevo Diario* revealed on March 15.

It will be recalled that the Somoza regime in Nicaragua was propped up by Israeli arms and military personnel, and Israel also provides extensive military support to the murderous El Salvador and Guatemala juntas.

The Managua paper said that the Israeli pilots' presence in Honduras had aroused fears that Central America may soon be the scene of similar air attacks on defenceless civilian targets to those carried out against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples in south Lebanon.

SOLIDARITY

DECLARATION BY PALESTINE SOLIDARITY COMMITTEES

In the last issue of Palestine we reported on the meeting of West European committees in solidarity with the Palestinian cause, which took place in Leiden, Holland, on February 20-21, 1982. In the following we publish the text of the final declaration which was unanimously adopted at the end of the meeting:

"The solidarity committee support the opposition of the PLO and the Arab countries to the Camp David agreements, because the agreements exclude the national aspirations of the Palestinian people. As a result of these agreements the last part of Sinai will be given back to Egypt. However, the Sinai will not be under the complete control of Egypt, it will be also under the control of the so-called multinational forces, in which apart from the United States, a number of European countries: France, England, Italy and Holland are taking part. This means simply that the Israeli occupation will be replaced by American and West European occupation.

"The Palestinian demands for self-determination and recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people are rejected mainly by the U.S. and Israel. They want the Palestinians to live under a new slavery. Their Camp David agreements offer the Palestinians a so-called 'autonomy'; in the meantime the Israeli army will keep its control over the occupied territories. The recently created 'civil administration' is nothing but a cover for continued occupation.

"According to the solidarity committees, support for economic, social, cultural and educational institutions in the occupied territories is highly needed in view of the continuing colonization and the Israeli control over the land and the water resources. Moreover, the committees condemn the recent closure of Bir Zeit as a new attack on one of the most important national institutions in the occupied territories.

"Alongside the situation in the occupied territories we view the Israeli and American plans against south Lebanon with the gravest concern. Israel intends to attack south Lebanon with the use of new American weapons. The aims of the Israeli aggression in Lebanon seem to be: a) to break the back-bone of the Palestinian Resistance and the Lebanese National Forces; b) to impose on the Palestinians, after the weakening of the PLO, the so-called 'self-rule' plan in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"In the light of these events, the committees view the coming visit of French President Mitterrand to

ZIONISTS HIT OUT AT DUTCH LEFT

Zionist organizations in Holland have launched a vicious campaign against Dutch leftist organisations, accusing them of supporting the PLO.

The President of the Zionist Labour Organization in Holland said that the Dutch Left, like many leftist movements in the world, is adopting the Palestinian point of view, and most leftist organizations in Holland condemn Israel for being Zionist and racist.

This campaign against Dutch leftists coincides with Israel's increasing isolation in the world, while the PLO is gaining more recognition and achieving more political victories.

Israel as an encouragement for this Israeli and American policy. We urge the governments and parties of the European countries to continue their dialogue with the PLO and to recognize the national right of the Palestinian people to build their own state."

The solidarity committees came from Holland, Belgium, France, Denmark, England, Germany, Ireland, Scotland, Norway, Finland and Switzerland.

LETTER FROM THE FINLAND-PALESTINE SOCIETY

The Secretariat of Solidarity Committees of the PLO Foreign Information Office thanks the Finnish solidarity committee for the following letter which it received in early March:

"On behalf of the Finland-Palestine Society I thank you for the meeting of the Palestine Coordination Committee in Holland. To us who are a small organization it is very important and useful to keep in contact with other Solidarity groups. It keeps us alive and makes us work harder in our country. We stay beside you in these hard days and want to support you in your struggle. We shall continue to send our comrades to participate in the Palestinian solidarity working camps, to see the situation and to learn your case."

In struggle
Finland-Palestine Society
Maj - Lis Eronen
Secretary
Helsinki
Finland

ABU JIHAD RECEIVES PAN AFRICANIST CONGRESS OF AZANIA DELEGATION

On March 9, Fateh Central Committee member Abu Jihad received a delegation from the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, headed by the General Secretary of the organisation, John Pokela and including Gora Ebrahim, member of the Central Committee of the organisation.

The meeting dealt with the current situation in south Lebanon and in the occupied territories, and compared racial discrimination in occupied Palestine and in South Africa.

The two parties agreed to develop relations and increase cooperation.

LEADING CHADIAN JOURNALIST GIVES FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT

Invited by the General Union of Palestinian Writers and Journalists, the Chairman of the Chadian Union of Journalists and news editor of Radio Chad, Maradas al-Goni, visited the PLO in Lebanon in early March 1982. During his talks with Palestinian colleagues in the various sections of the PLO Unified Information he portrayed the appalling conditions the people of Chad are forced to exist under, due to the continued colonialist and neo-colonialist interference in this country. After the declaration of independence, in 1960, France never ceased its active interference and subversion in the impoverished country, which is thought to have rich mineral resources and holds an important strategic position. However, when in late 1979 and 1980 a certain stabilization was achieved under a central government with OAU blessing and Libyan material support, the U.S. government did everything to undermine this stabilization through various agents. The French "socialist" government again played a sinister role last year, when it urged and pressured the Chadian government to oust Libyan security forces from the country, promoting all sorts of help and subsequent stabilization through the OAU. In fact, as soon as the Libyans had left the country, the U.S. escalated its subversion through Sudanese, Egyptian and even Israeli channels, while the French stood by idly having fulfilled their deceitful role.

The government and the various factions supporting it are now engaged in a protracted struggle to defend the country against the

subversion supported from outside, while thousands of civilians are suffering and dying, with the economy and the rudimentary infrastructure in shambles.

The Reagan administration is crying wolf about alleged "Libyan" terrorism and destabilization. But it is its own policy which, with the connivance of France, does everything to further destabilize all northern Africa, at the price of the people's blood.

GUINEA-BISSAU GRANTS PLO OFFICE EMBASSY STATUS

On March 15, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Guinea-Bissau announced the promotion of the PLO office there to embassy status.

The announcement was distributed by the Foreign Ministry to all the diplomatic missions, consulates, international organizations, embassies, and liberation movements in Guinea-Bissau, explaining that the move stemmed from the government's "recognition of the PLO".

This action also grants the PLO representative Muhammad al-'Almi, and the office staff full diplomatic privileges.

ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PLO AND THE GDR

An agreement of economic and technical cooperation has been signed in Leipzig between the PLO and the German Democratic Republic on March 20.

The Director of 'Samed', Abu Ala', signed the agreement on behalf of the PLO and in the presence of a number of Palestinian and German officials.

Comrade Horst Zolli, Minister of Foreign Commerce in the GDR, signed on behalf of the German side. He said that this is the first time in the history of the GDR that such an agreement has been signed.

He added: "What pushes us to sign this agreement is to raise our recognition of the PLO from a political one to a practical one which helps and supports the Palestinians in building their national economy."

SOLIDARITY

TANZANIAN UNIVERSITY IN PALESTINE SOLIDARITY

Salim Ahmad Salim, the Tanzanian Foreign Minister will open a one-day Seminar to mobilize public opinion on the Palestine cause. The seminar is jointly organized by the Institute for Palestine Studies, the Mozambique-Tanzanian Centre for Foreign Relations and the Institute of Development Studies of the University of Dar es-Salaam; it is due to open on March 26.

PALESTINIAN CULTURAL WEEK IN TUNIS

On March 20, the Palestinian Cultural Week in Tunis continued with the holding of an exhibition of cartoons by the artist Naji al-Ali and the showing of several films.

The day before, a poetry reading was given by a number of Palestinian poets in Sfax; another exhibition of "Samed" products was also organised in Banzart, along with the presentation of a number of Palestinian films and plays. There were attended by the Palestinian community in Tunis and a large number of Tunisians.

INTERNATIONAL BODIES CALLED ON TO LOOK INTO PLIGHT OF PALESTINIAN PRISONERS

On March 18, the Committee for the Defence of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails called on international legal bodies to investigate the plight of Palestinian detainees.

The call came in a memorandum submitted to the Arab Jurists Office, which held its inaugural session in Algiers.

The Committee designated April 17 as Palestinian Prisoners Day. In its memo the Committee drew attention to the deplorable conditions for Palestinian detainees, noting that 75 prisoners have died in the last few months as a result of torture and the abominable state of the jails.

The committee made the following proposals:

1) The raising of this issue on a broad scope particularly among international legal and humanitarian organizations.

2) Working toward the formation of an international legal committee to examine the conditions under which Palestinians are imprisoned in Israeli jails.

3) Sending an international medical committee to treat those with chronic illnesses and to free hopeless cases who are suffering from paralysis and blindness.

4) Presenting this issue to the International Supreme Court to pressure Israel to stop its barbaric treatment.

GDR PRESIDENT VISITS PLO STAND AT LEIPZIG EXHIBITION

On March 14, the President of the German Democratic Republic, Erich Honeker visited the Samed stand at the Leipzig spring exhibition. Honeker expressed his satisfaction with the recent meetings with PLO Chairman Arafat and affirmed the GDR's strong stand in backing the struggle of the Palestinian people.

Samed (Palestinian economic institution) was awarded a golden medal and an honorary certificate for the good quality of its products.

IUS AFFIRMS SUPPORT OF PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE STUDENTS

A Seminar on "Democracy of Education" was held in Beirut on March 10-14 by the International Union of Students, the General Union of Palestinian Students and the National Union of Lebanese Universities.

The Seminar ended with a communique affirming support for the



struggle of Lebanese students, Bir Zeit students and the Palestinian students movement.

The participants affirmed their support for the Palestinian people's struggle under the leadership of the PLO.

PHOTO EXHIBITION TO BE HELD IN TOKYO

An exhibition of photographs, films and slides on Jerusalem and the Palestine question, and handicrafts and costumes from the Holy city will be held between 10-16 June in the largest hall of the Tobu department store in the Japanese capital.

The objective of the exhibition, which has organised by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary League for Japan-Palestine Friendship, will be to reflect the impressions gathered and recorded during a visit to Jerusalem by 13 Japanese photographers

ISRAEL'S LEBANON INVASION MARCH 1978



*Mutia' Ibrahim and Omar al-Mukhtar just few minutes before their martyrdom.
The Israeli tanks are at the top of the hill.*

Commemorating Two Colleagues:

On March 14, 1978, Israeli forces started a large-scale invasion of southern Lebanon, accompanied by a barbaric bombardment of the region and its villages from the air, the land and the sea. About 2,000 civilians, both Lebanese and Palestinians were killed during the ten days of Israeli aggression, which also resulted in the occupation of the border strip by Israel which continues to this day.

Among the Palestinian and Lebanese militants who gave their life for the defence of the country against the aggressor were two cameramen from the Cinema Section of the PLO Unified Information: Mutia' Ibrahim and Omar al-Mukhtar. One of their colleagues, Yusif al-Kuttub, who was together with them on their mission on March 14, recalls the events:

"We were a group of cameramen from the Unified Information of the PLO on our mission to shoot scenes from the battle in southern Lebanon. We were five men: Mutia', Omar, Abu

Zarif from the Cinema Section, and two photo reporters: Ibrahim and me. We reached the village of Tebnin near the southern border. The battle was raging in nearby Bint Jbeil. We approached the area of Saff al-Hauwa near Bint Jbeil. We found a lot of damage. We started to take pictures and film. While we were working, tanks were heading towards Saff al-Hauwa. So we started to film the tanks and the destruction. One of the tanks came very close. While we were taking pictures of it, it directed its canon towards the group, and then a hail of bullets and projectiles started raining on us. Our group was at the foot of the mountain on the public road. Now, Abu Zarif, Yusif and Ibrahim headed upwards from the street, while Mutia' and Omar went downwards. It was a battle between the camera and the hail of bullets and shells. The camera won in securing the pictures from the battle, but the price was that Mutia' and Omar gave their lives for the sake of the history of Palestine and the Palestinian Revolution.

"We pledge to continue the march of our two martyred comrades."



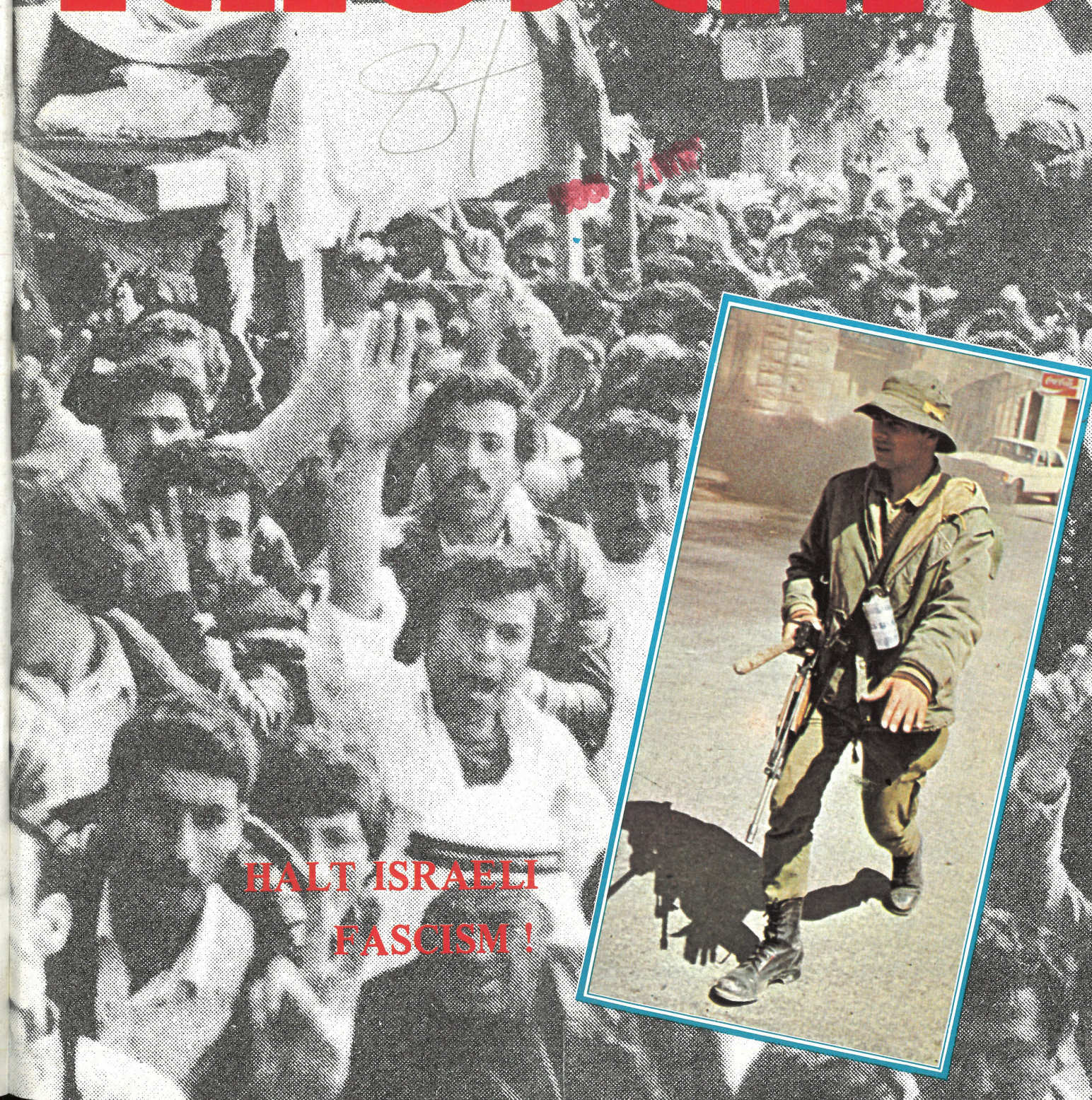
PALESTINE - SALVADOR:
OUR PEOPLES WILL WIN

Palestine

P.L.O.
information
bulletin

Vol. 5, No. 7
1 - 15 March 1982

SPECIAL:
PALESTINIAN UPRISING



HALT ISRAELI
FASCISM!