

Arab Struggle Against Common Enemy

by Cheng Kung

IN the resistance to the fourth aggressive war launched by Israeli Zionism, a new situation of unprecedented unity against the common enemy emerged in the Arab world.

Cairo: People Rally Together

In Cairo, the capital of the Arab Republic of Egypt, people danced with joy and some were moved to tears when they heard that the Egyptian national flag again flew over the Sinai Peninsula which had been occupied for six long years by the Israeli Zionists. They were overjoyed at the news of victories from the front and the shattering of the myth that Israel was "invincible."

The Egyptian people made all kinds of contributions to support the front so as to hit hard at the aggressors. About 500,000 industrial workers and people from other walks of life started a blood donation campaign. Two hundred industrial companies and organizations decided to increase production under war conditions. Workers in some factories decided to contribute a day's pay to aid the war. The Egyptian Teachers' Association decided to turn one school compound in each governorate into an emergency hospital.

Like their menfolk, Egyptian women in all circles got busy. President Sadat's wife Jihan Sadat made the rounds of Cairo's hospitals to visit the wounded and to convey the President's regards to them. Many women volunteered to take part in production and other work. For example, some women teachers received training in nursing and first-aid work to help medical workers tend the wounded. There was also the case of 16-year-old Mirat Mohamed Okasha who bought, with the 250 Egyptian pounds she had saved for years, gifts for the soldiers at the front.

Damascus: Mass Participation

In the Syrian capital Damascus, many young people armed with rifles, sub-machineguns and other weapons carried out various military duties. They were members of Syria's "People's Army." Organized by the government, it was made up of university and

middle-school students, members of such mass organizations as workers', peasants', women's and youth federations and other volunteers. After the outbreak of war, members of the "People's Army" were active at various posts in the rear. They engaged in production and other work and were prepared at all times for combat duty.

The Syrian Government organized 14- to 16-year-old volunteers in Damascus into civil defence units. After an enemy air raid, they rushed to the scene of damage to put out fires, give first-aid to the wounded and take the seriously wounded to hospital. They quickly cleared the streets of debris so that traffic was not blocked. Unexploded bombs, time bombs and rockets were quickly defused and removed by civil defence specialists.

Broad participation by the masses in the war of resistance turned Syria's rear area into a gigantic escape-proof net. Enemy pilots could not avoid capture by the people even if they managed to parachute from their damaged planes. An Israeli flyer who baled out over Mesraa Quarters in Damascus was seized by a group of children the moment he landed and was turned over to a nearby military unit.

Palestinian Guerrillas: Co-ordinating Attacks

The Palestinian commandos who had persisted in a protracted and arduous armed struggle in Israeli-occupied areas to restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people were all the more in high spirits those days in the war of resistance waged by Egypt and Syria against Israeli aggression. They pinned down enemy forces behind Israeli lines and actually started a second battlefield in Israel's rear areas. They effectively co-ordinated their actions with the fighting on the Egyptian and Syrian battlefields.

After the start of the war on October 6, the commandos launched successive attacks on the enemy behind the Israeli aggressors' lines in the Golan Heights, in Galilee on the West Bank of the Jordan River, in the Gaza Strip in the rear of the Israeli aggressors in the Sinai Peninsula and in areas near Tel Aviv and Haifa inside Israel. In the last two weeks, they at-

tacked enemy camps, and concentration areas, destroyed enemy radar stations, supply bases and storages, ambushed enemy convoys and blew up enemy bridges. Penetrating deep into the heartland of Israel, the commandos blew up a petrol dump at Tel Aviv airfield and attacked the naval base near Haifa and military installations near Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

Myth Exploded

No one can accept the Israeli challenge but can only bow to its deterrent power — all this and many other myths have now been exploded by the armed forces and people of Egypt and Syria and the Palestinian commandos who repulsed the fourth war of aggression launched by Israeli Zionism.

Indeed, this time the Arab people gave the Israeli aggressors a strong blow on both the Egyptian and Syrian fronts, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. They first captured Colonel Assaf Yagoury, Commander of Israeli 190th Armoured Brigade, and later killed Brigadier-General Abraham Mendler, Commander of the Israeli Armoured Corps in Sinai, in action. This pricked the bubble of the enemy's "military superiority" and made his calculated "lightning war of quick decision" come to naught. Small wonder that Israeli Prime Minister Meir had to admit at a press conference in Tel Aviv that "we have come through very hard times."

Fighting heroically, the Arab people made the Israeli aggressors sustain heavy losses. It was reported that Israel had extended the conscription age from 45 to 50. Calling so many men to arms could not but adversely affect further industrial and agricultural production as well as Israel's day-to-day economic activities.

The just struggle of the armed forces and people of Egypt and Syria and the Palestinian commandos against aggression won the widespread support of the governments and people of the Arab countries. Armed forces were sent by Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, the Sudan, Jordan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia to fight on the side of Egypt and Syria. Financial aid came from countries like Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Abu Dhabi and Qatar. Other countries supported the fighting armies and people of Egypt, Syria and Palestine with monetary and blood donations and in every other way. Confronting the Israeli Zionist aggression, they showed that the hearts of the millions beat as one and they wanted to take concerted action against their common enemy. This was characteristic of the Arab people's struggle against aggression.

Apart from making representations to the United States against continued arms supplies to Israel following the outbreak of the war, a number of Arab countries

took other measures. On October 17, a meeting in Kuwait of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, attended by the oil ministers of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Algeria, Libya, Syria, Egypt, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, came to a decision to immediately effect a 5 per cent monthly cutback in oil supplies to the United States and other countries backing Israeli aggression.

Standing by the Arab People

There was a surging tide condemning Israeli aggression and supporting the Arab people's war of resistance after the October 6 war began. Altogether ten African countries severed diplomatic ties with Israel. The 22nd Session of the Liberation Committee of the Organization of African Unity, held in Mogadishu, capital of Somalia, expressed full support for the just struggle of Egypt and Syria against Israeli aggression.

A resolution adopted at the October 17 meeting reaffirmed "full support for and total positive solidarity with the peoples of Egypt and other Arab states who are waging a legitimate, heroic and just struggle to recover their territories and safeguard their sovereignty and territorial integrity."

The resolution declared that the session "strongly condemns the attitude of the U.S. Government which continues to grant military and economic assistance as well as political and moral support to the Israeli aggressor."

Superpowers' Role Denounced

Since Israel unleashed its fourth aggressive war, world public opinion pointed out that it was backed by the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union.

The Ghanaian weekly *Palaver* in an October 10 editorial said: While the U.S. openly preaches peace in the Middle East, it secretly encourages aggression by supplying Israel with deadlier weapons. The Russians are merely paying lip-service to the Arab cause and, like the Americans, are interested in what they can get out of the Middle East. The leading article stressed that "we condemn in unequivocal terms the hypocrisy of the United States and the Soviet Union which contributed to the present holocaust in the area."

The French paper *l'Humanite Rouge* in an editorial on October 18 exposed the scheme of social-imperialism in the Middle East. It said, "In the days and weeks to come, one can be certain that new plots against the Arab peoples will be hatched in order to check their just fight and preserve the Zionist state in difficulty." "The two superpowers dream of returning to the situation of 'no war, no peace' which best favours their contest for spheres of influence and the conquest of economic and strategic bases."