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The indomitable Palestinian people are determined to fight to the end for the thorough victory of the cause of national liberation. The armed suppression by U.S. imperialism and its lackeys can never put out the revolutionary flames in Palestine. Photo: The Palestinian guerrillas toughened by battles.

-- Hsinhua Radiophoto, Peking, September 22, 1970

EDITORIAL

Since the defeat of Hussein's vicious attacks against the Fedayeen in September last year, the Fedayeen have gathered their forces and recommenced their operations against the Israeli aggressors. In recent weeks, these operations have increased in number and intensity including attacks against military convoys in Gaza and some important Israeli fortifications near Al Manara.

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MASSES ENSURE VICTORY - ABU OMMER

ON DECEMBER LAST YEAR, ABU OMMER FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION, CAME ON A WEEK'S VISIT TO BRITAIN. DURING HIS VISIT, ABU OMMER SPOKE AT SEVERAL PSC MEETINGS AROUND THE COUNTRY. THE FOLLOWING ARE EXTRACTS FROM THE SPEECH HE DELIVERED TO A PACKED MEETING IN LONDON.

Abu Ommar began by referring to the confrontation

between the Fedayeen and the Hussein regime during September last year.

The events in September have been confusing to some people but to many of us they came as no surprise.

"As Mao Tsetung said,

the main contradiction in the third world is that between imperialism and the masses. In Palestine and the Arab world as a whole, the main contradiction is between imperialism, world Zionism and its embodiment Israel on the one hand and the Palestinian and Arab masses on the other.

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"As the struggle of the Palestinian people is an anti-imperialist and a national struggle, then not only Israel stands against it but also the agents of imperialism inside the Arab countries. The government of Jordan being one of them. The difference being that Zionism is much more wedded to imperialism and thus more dependable than the Arab agents of imperialism. Israel was created precisely because the Arab Sheiks and other agents could no longer be depended upon to defend the interests of imperialism in the area.

"The strategy of the Palestinian revolution has been to focus upon the primary contradiction, knowing full well in doing so, it will ultimately come into conflict with those Arab agents and stooges of imperialism. That is why the events of September in Jordan were of no great surprise. Neither was it the first time that the Palestinian revolution is attacked by those Arab agents. The plots and conspiracies to liquidate the Fedayeen have been many, even before the 1967 war. The first Fatah fighter was killed by the Jordanian authorities when returning back from an operation inside Israel. September was the culmination of a series of attempts to smash the Fedayeen forces: but unlike the previous ones, it was the first full scale and overall attack on the Fedayeen to liquidate them completely.

September 1970 was the right time to attack the Fedayeen as everything seemed to be going against them: The Rogers Plan, a procedure for the implementation of the November 22nd UN resolution, had been accepted by the 'big powers',

by Israel and some Arab governments; Hussein was hoping to exploit Nasser's acceptance of the Rogers plan and get his support for the liquidation of the Fedayeen; certain attitudes and actions by parts of the Palestine liberation movement such as the hijacking of airliners and holding of hostages gave Hussein a pretext to start his attacks; and finally pressure from the US and Britain to take a final step to crush the Fedayeen. All of this played a part in determining the timing of the September confrontation.

"Hussein and his government expected the whole operation to take a few hours or one or two days at a maximum. In fact the fighting continued for 12 days with only the periphery of Amman in the hands of the army. The fighting was fierce and bloody. The army used artillery fire and tanks against the fedayeen and the people in general, this was the first time that the Jordanian government was egalitarian: they shelled everything and everybody. The refugee camps suffered most, not because of occupation by the army but due to continuous shelling daily from 4.30 a.m. till 6.0 p.m.

"The troops used in the fighting were in the main of the Bedouin units. They are

recruited in these special units from an early age from nomadic and bedouin tribes, indoctrinated in religious dogmas and taught absolute loyalty to the King, who, they are told, is a descendent from Mohammed and an authority from God. Paid well and kept isolated from society, they are taught to hate any progress as an attempt to burn the Koran. Recently their hate has been directed towards the Fedayeen.

"The sum total of the fighting was that neither the government succeeded in smashing the revolution or the Fedayeen able to defeat the government. It was a stalemate. At least for the time being. The agreement that followed, naturally reflected this state of affairs. Some people are dissatisfied that the Hussein regime was not brought down. They have been used to see the revolution move from one success to another and expected that in an all out confrontation that the revolution would be able to crush Hussein. The fighting took place and the

CONT. on page 5.



PART OF THE MASSIVE DEMONSTRATION THE PSC HELD IN MAY

The Struggle in ERITREA



One of the less heard of wars of liberation is the one conducted by the people of Eritrea against Ethiopian domination. In a previous issue of this journal a mention was made of the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) and the guerrilla war it has been waging for nine years. Recently the operations of ELF have increased to such an extent that the Ethiopian government declared a state of emergency early in December 1970. This came after a number of operations by the ELF costing the enemy the lives of one General and several other government officials, together with the destruction of a vital railroad, a passenger train and several important buildings and road bridges.

Eritrea falls on the western shores of the Red Sea, to the north of Ethiopia and to the south and west of the Sudan. It has an area of 75,000 sq. miles and a population of 3 million people. It fell under Turkish occupation in 1557 and remained within the Ottoman Empire until the Italians drove the Turks out in 1885. With the defeat of Italy, Eritrea came under the control of Britain after the second world war. Eritrea was federated to Ethiopia in 1952, following a UN resolution which was enforced on the people of Eritrea. The federation was changed in 1962 to a military occupation and imperial control by the Ethiopian government.

For 18 years the Eritrean people have been subjected to the ugliest forms of terror and persecution the result of

which, thousands had to leave their homes and flee to neighbouring Sudan.

Ethiopia is a feudal country with an autocratic regime headed by The Emperor Haile Selassie who claims to be a descendant of King Solomon. 90% of the population are subsistence farmers, only 4% can read and write.

Ethiopia has a military force of 37,000 effective combat troops together with an air force and a naval force all maintained and equipped by the US. 'Ethiopia receives more than half of all US military aid to nations on the African continent. The cost of this programme has now climbed over the 100 million dollar mark and the US military assistance advisory group of 110 officers and men in Ethiopia is the biggest in Africa. In addition Ethiopia receives 150 million dollars in economic assistance' (US News and

World report, 1967).

This massive US aid is not for nothing.

Gulf Oil and Mobil-Esso conduct their offshore exploration in the Red Sea from Massawa, a naval base on the Eritrean coast. At Asmara, the capital of Eritrea, the US maintains a 60 million dollar relay station used for diplomatic and defence communications with 3,200 resident Americans. The altitude and geographical position of this radio station makes ideal high frequency communications.

Israel, in its attempts to penetrate the African continent on behalf of the US has succeeded in penetrating

to a great extent both the military and the economic structure of Ethiopia.

On the military side, Israel has a number of "advisors" working with the armed forces and they virtually control the security police. Many of the Israeli "advisors" are directly involved in the fighting taking place in Eritrea.

The Eritrean Liberation Front was founded in 1961 and since then has been conducting a guerrilla war against Ethiopian suppression. During these nine years it has gained the respect and support of the

EDITORIAL

continued from front page.

As a response to this development, the Hussein regime has increased its sneaky attacks against Palestinian refugee camps and Fedayeen bases in Jordan. The Israeli Zionists have also intensified their attacks on border villages and inland Palestinian camps. These Israeli operations have proved to be very costly in life and ammunition to the Israeli aggressors. The resumption of these raids is a sign of success of the Fedayeen operations inside Israel. In recent weeks Israel carried out several raids inside Lebanon the latest one took place on January 14th against Safarand on the mediterranean coast.

Meanwhile the diplomatic conspiracy continues. The 'Jarring talks' to arrive at a 'peaceful solution' have began again. The loud noises of Golda Meir and Dayan on the Israeli side and President Sadat and others on the 'Arab' side proclaiming their uncompromising position have proved to be just more empty talk. With the blessings of America and Russia, the two sides are coming closer together and general agreement is not far off. Through out all this, the stand of the Palestinian revolution has been clear. The Fedayeen have completely rejected the 'Rogers proposals' the Jarring talks and all other attempts to reach a settlement at the expense of their livelihood and future. They also rejected the current idea of a Palestinian state on the western bank of the Jordan river; a state with no economic independence, which Israel can dominate and exploit, in the name of giving the Palestinian a home (as if they came

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FEDAYEEN RESUME ATTACKS

In spite of the all out attack on the Palestinian revolution by the US backed Jordanian reactionaries last Autumn, the Fedayeen have been able to carry out a large number of military operations against the Zionist enemy. During the end of 1969, and the beginning of this year the Palestinian revolution has demonstrated its capability of maintaining a high level of activity directed against the Zionist occupationists, while having to defend its bases from attacks by the army of the US puppet Hussein.

As an example during the first four days of this year, Fedayeen launched eight attacks against the enemy in the Gaza strip, Upper Galilee, and the Golan Heights; killing or wounding more than twenty Israeli troops, and damaging or destroying eight military vehicles, including one tank, two half-tracks, and an armoured car. This is an indication of how the Fedayeen have intensified their attacks against the Zionists.

from outer space with no home here on earth). The Fedayeen are determined to fight on till final victory by smashing the racist state of Israel and establishing a democratic secular state in the whole of Palestine.

The Palestinian revolution is facing the most crucial stage in its history. The advance of the Revolution, the support it has gained amongst the Palestinian and Arab masses and the effect it

The continuation of military operations against the state of Israel is of considerable political as well as military importance for the Palestinian revolution, for, if in the current situation the revolution allowed the provocations of the Butcher Hussein to prevent attacks upon the occupiers of the Palestinian homeland, the raison d'etre of the Palestinian revolution as a national liberation movement would be called into question. It is therefore a great tribute to the strength and determination of the Palestinian revolution that they have been able to maintain and intensify their attacks against the Zionist-colonialists, in spite of the attacks and provocations from the Jordanian reactionaries, thus defeating the plots of the US imperialists, the backers of both the Zionists and King Hussein and demonstrating the Palestinian people's determination to win final victory.

has had on the revolutionary movement in the whole of the Middle East have made it the greatest danger to the Imperialist presence and interests in that area. For this reason, the Palestinian revolution has to face a concentrated and coordinated attack from the Imperialist powers and their stooges in the Middle East. Today when the Jordanian army launches its attack on a Fedayeen base, it is covered by Israeli gun fire.

ATTEND

P.S.C CONFERENCE

Abu Omar. CONTINUED...

result was clear - a stale mate. For this reason we can expect other confrontations in the future. The agreement itself is not what ensures the revolution it is the masses who are prepared to safeguard and support the revolution that ensures its success.

"The agreement has in the main been implemented apart from a few isolated skirmishes that will continue to take place. The government continues to take repressive measures against the Palestinians and Jordanians to tire them and make them opt out of the Palestinian puppet "state" solution. Some militia are detained.

people harassed and arrested etc. The Fedayeen are aware of these plans and will not stand by while such repression takes place. Our policy is what might be called 'limited response' against these attacks. If a militia is arrested; a soldier is picked up. If a Fedayeen car is shot at; two military cars are shot at by the Fedayeen.

"One very important outcome of the September confrontation is the increased unity of the Liberation movement; a unity that is greater and more solid than ever before. The offices in Amman are unified into one; Fedayeen forces are under one command; Daily, Fateh and radio and the voice of Assifa now speak in the name of the Palestinian revolution. Actual framework for unity has not yet been worked out but all groups are now discussing ways towards complete unity of the Palestine liberation movement.

The Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) will hold its annual National Conference on February 6th. at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1 from 10 - 6 p.m.

The conference is particularly important at a time when the Jordanian regime is intensifying its repression against the Palestinian Resistance movement. Membership is open to all who accept the aims of P.S.C.; supporting the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination in a liberated de-Zionised, democratic Palestine where Jews and Arabs enjoy equal rights; opposing attempts by any

Arab government to liquidate, muzzle, control or in any way interfere with the struggle of the Palestinian people; opposing all forms of racism, especially Zionism and anti-Jewish racism, a legacy of imperialism fostered by Zionist propaganda.

Express your solidarity with the Palestinian people's struggle not just to liberate its land but also to freely organise itself in the Arab countries in the pursuance of this aim. Your support is crucial at this moment in the Resistance movement's fight on two fronts, that against Zionist aggressors and the one imposed on it by Arab reaction.

2nd MEMBERSHIP CONFERENCE of P.S.C

FEBRUARY 6th,
10 am - 6 pm

Open to all PSC members
Membership 10/- Yearly.

CONWAY HALL, RED LION SQ. W.C.1

Dhofar

Britain using British officers and mercenary troops have embarked on a savage large scale military attacks on the Dhofar guerrillas and peoples in the liberated areas. RAF planes with British pilots have been used to bomb villages, farms and cattle in a policy of "burning all, destroying all" in order to strangle the armed revolution in this area of the Middle East.

It is a new development in the policy of the British Government. They are trying to prop up the corrupt feudal regimes of the Gulf Sheikdoms in preparation for their "withdrawal" from the Arabian Gulf. This so called "withdrawal" is nothing more than rationalising of the British colonial presence in the Gulf. As even western observers have to admit, the withdrawal of British troops is likely to be followed by growing naval activity in the area. (Times, 16.12.70)

This large scale attack by the British colonial authorities comes as a response to the growing strength of the People's Front for the Liberation of the Arabian Gulf operating in the Dhofar area. The Liberation Army now controls the greater part of Dhofar leaving the capital Salala, an isolated city. Armed struggle in other parts of the Gulf States has also been developing rapidly. In a recent joint communique issued by the Dhofar and Oman Liberation movements, the unity and coordination of their armed struggle was emphasised as well as their determination to liberate the whole of the Arabian Gulf through protracted people's

war. The two fronts called on "All National Forces in Oman and the Arabian Gulf to group in a Broad national front to eliminate the colonial presence, put an end to the rule of feudal families and establish a progressive national regime".

Announcing their success in repulsing the attacks by British and mercenary troops throughout November and December, the People's Front operating in Dhofar called the people all over the world to condemn the British Government's murderous attacks on the people of Dhofar. We in Britain have a special duty to stop our governments

vicious suppression of the fighting people of Dhofar and the whole Arabian Gulf.

ERITREA cont. P3.

Eritrean masses. The threat the ELF poses to the Ethiopia-

n autocracy and their American masters has forced the Ethiopian government to send more troops into Eritrea to intensify their suppression of the people. Following the declaration of the State of Emergency in December, thousands are reported to be crossing the border to Sudan to escape the terror of the Ethiopian occupying forces.



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