

# Free Palestine

STACK 3

PER DIV.  
JAN 24 1978  
NYPL

Vol. V, No. 9-10 November-December 1977

## Palestinian Demonstrations Against Sadat in Jerusalem



Palestinian demonstration against Sadat in occupied Jerusalem

In all the towns and villages of the occupied West Bank, Palestinians boycotted and demonstrated against the Sadat visit to occupied Jerusalem. Hundreds of school children demonstrated against Sadat in Jerusalem, Ramallah, Nablus and Jenin while slogans on the walls appeared condemning the visit and expressing full support for the PLO. The mayors of the West Bank cities and villages refused to meet President Sadat, and issued a statement in which they said: "This visit implies approval of Israel repressive policies against the Palestinians, and of the colonization and Zionist settlements over our land. The visit is a result of Sadat's policies of surrendering our rights, and unfortunately it comes at a time when the International community began to understand our just struggle and to condemn Zionism as Racism. We fully support the PLO and we seek a just peace based on our right to self-determination, to liberation and to an independent Palestinian State. We call on the Arab nation to mobilize all its energies so that we can regain our rights and liberate our homeland."



Arafat, Kathafi, Hawatmah and Habash in unity at Tripoli Conference

In Jerusalem, the Israeli military sealed off the Old City and surrounded Al-Aqsa mosque with hundreds of troops. Only a few hundred handpicked Palestinians were allowed to enter the mosque and pray with Sadat, and during the prayer sermon the Shaykh of the Aqsa mosque called on Sadat not to forget the "suppressed Palestinian people" and to "help release Palestinian political prisoners" and he stressed the attachment of Palestinians to their land and freedom. After the prayer, hundreds of demonstrators clashed with the Israeli security

(Continued on page 7)

### Israeli Air Raids, American Approval

## Mass Murder in South Lebanon

As a result of the massive Israeli air raids, November 9th, on villages and refugee camps in South Lebanon, more than one hundred innocent civilians were killed, and hundreds more injured. Without warning, Israeli jets appeared over the city of Tyre and the refugee camps of Rashidiya, Burj al-Shemali and Nabatiya and dropped loads of bombs causing death and injury to innocent men, women and children. The village of Assiya, inhabited mostly by Lebanese villagers and refugees was totally destroyed, reduced to rubble. More than fifty five civilians died under the rubble at the village.

Newsweek correspondent Tony Clifton visited the village hours after the raid and wrote: "Just a few hours before, Azziya had been a pretty little collection of stone houses. Now more than 50 of the 250 villagers were dead and Azziya itself was literally a pile of rubble, so pulverized by Israeli bombs that it looked more like a rock-quarry than a place of human habitation. Ali Shahadeh Abu-Halaweh told me his wife and son were buried in a collapsed house 50 yards away. He wanted to dig them out, but he didn't dare. "There are delayed-action bombs," he said. "Just after the bombs fell, my friends and I were trying to dig some people out of the houses. There was an explosion and four of us were hurt. Now I must wait twelve hours before I can see what has happened to my wife and son." In Tyre, the hospitals were packed. Nearly all of the casualties I saw were Lebanese, not Palestinian, and most were women, children and old people. Ahmed Salim, 7, and his sister Sawsan, 5, clung together in terror. The children's legs were slashed by shrapnel. The destruction (of Azziya) reminded me of Vietnam where U.S. jets would roar in and obliterate the village."

In Tel-Aviv, Israeli Chief of Staff Gur said at a Press Conference that the air raids were against Palestinian "terrorist" bases and that no civilians were injured. The New York Times reported that "at Azziya rescue workers found the bodies of 45 residents in the wreckage, including women, children and old men, and said more could be uncovered."

In Washington, D.C. President Carter refused to condemn or express regret for this slaughter of innocent people. He said Israel was retaliating for Palestinian attacks on its towns. Although Israel used American planes and bombs, and although hundreds of civilians were killed, President Carter did not feel Israel was doing anything wrong. This is a classic example of the American bias, the lack of humanity and compassion when it comes to Palestinian and Lebanese civilian victims. In President Carter's eyes Lebanese civilians are somehow sub-human, and one must shed no tears or show any mercy when their innocent children are cut to pieces by American made weapons.



Total Destruction of Aziyah Village



Father and dead children — victims of Israeli air raids

## Inherent Danger to the Palestinians

# Sadat's Visit

## Background, Significance & Consequences

Sadat's encounter with the Israeli regime, on his visit to Palestine, should be seen only in the context of the broad design of recent political events in the Middle East, rather than as an isolated incident. Indeed the Sadat visit is a logical and predictable culmination of a series of happenings that began with the aftermath of the October War: namely, the emergence in the Arab world, for the first time since 1952, of the conservative Arab right into a position of ascendancy, power and prestige.

This power block, encompassing Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria and Egypt, had traditionally had an accommodationist vision of interaction with the West (and by implication with Israel.) Its politico-economic interests were inextricably tied to the West, and its survival was contingent on a settlement with the Israeli entity in Palestine. This dynamic stemmed inevitably from the fact that the existence of this power block was underwritten by the West and its ability to entrench itself in the Arab world was predicated on the presence of "stable" conditions in the confrontation with Israel.

Hence, the leaders of the conservative Arab right, emerging from the October War as self-styled heroes, were able to proclaim publicly, without fear of retribution, and for the first time in the sixty year old struggle with Zionism, that they were prepared to "recognize" Israel, to "normalize" relations with it, to acquiesce in the creation of a Palestinian "entity" on the West Bank to call for negotiations on the basis of UN Resolution 242, and the rest of it. (This was a far cry from the days in 1965 when violent demonstrations, in virtually all the Arab capitals, greeted President Bourguiba's speech that the Arab world should "recognize Israel if Israel went back to its 1947 borders.")

There was one stumbling block on the road to total supremacy by the conservative Arab right in the wake of the October War — this was the existence of the Palestinian movement, whose vision of a settlement, and whose committed political program, were in complete opposition to its own.

The conflict in Lebanon developed not only into a stage for the destruction of the Palestinians and the draining of their political and tactical resources, but indeed into a theatre for all the class contradictions in the Arab world — above all into a struggle between all the right and left wing forces in the region. At the conclusion of the conflict it was obvious that the latter had had its day and the former its eclipse.

The spectacle of an Arab leader — from a pivotal state, to boot — visiting Jerusalem while the city was under Zionist occupation, is not, hence, such a dramatic one. It is, in any case, no more dramatic than the spectacle of the Syrian Arab army invading Lebanon to fight alongside the fascists and against the Palestinians; or the spectacle of all the hugging and kissing that went on at Cairo airport after which Kissinger and Nixon paraded through the streets of the city with a million Egyptian Arabs applauding them (while none came out to protest the siege of Tel Zaatar or applaud the heroism of its fighters); or the spectacle of Arab leaders openly declaring their intention to recognize Israel, normalize relations with it and allow the establishment of a Palestinian "entity" with an open and declared link to Jordan."

Rather, the Sadat visit, though the boldest and the most ruthless manifestation of the ascendancy of the conservative Arab right, could be seen as an integral part of this whole evolutionary continuum of events precipitated



Arafat, Jaloud and South Yemen's Ismael — Arab Unity

by the "victory" of the October War and the destruction of the mystique of the Palestine conflict as a generalized critique of Arab nationalism.

The passing of Palestinian exceptionalism, (and the Sadat's visit is but a stark symbol of that) in the Arab world, and the assertion that Palestinians, Palestinian national rights and the overall struggle for Palestine come second (and this is precisely what a Geneva style settlement is all about) will not pass unaffected in the dynamic of conflict in the Middle East.

Already, the Sadat visit, or the implications of the Sadat visit as eloquent statement about the tenor of current political life, has greatly sharpened the contradictions in the Arab world to a breaking point.

The survival of the conservative Arab right may hinge almost entirely on the success or failure of Sadat's overture to the Zionist regime. Only if he is able to extract a series of what the American media call "concessions" from Israel to gratify Syria and the P.L.O., will the conservatives in the Arab world not be supplanted, sooner or later, by a power block of rejectionists to which, willy nilly, even the hapless Hussein would gravitate. It is, however, inconceivable to imagine, (American "pressure" notwithstanding), an Israeli evacuation of the West Bank/Gaza for the establishment of a Palestinian state, entity, homeland, *et al*, that Palestinian leaders can seriously expect their people to consider, and a settlement of the territorial dispute in the Golan Heights and the Sinai Peninsula, to match the kind of paranoid and improbable demands that the Israelis will make. (A separate Egyptian/Israeli settlement would only hasten the downfall of the conservatives.)

The sensational nature of the Sadat visit, and the conversion of the Egyptian leader into a TV star, has momentarily overshadowed the crucial fact that the Mideast conflict is, what it has always been, totally centralized around the struggle for Palestine. Arab leaders have come and gone, heads of state from Faisal to Hussein have dealt openly or under the table with Zionists, and the Palestinian national movement has gone through various stages of ebb and flow, but for sixty long years, Palestine has remained the question and the Palestinians have demonstrated an uncanny ability to survive, to struggle and to continue etching their presence on the very consciousness of the whole world.

The Sadat visit, in the short run, may retard or even block the struggle of the Palestinian Movement to liberate the Palestinian homeland from foreign occupation forces; but in the long run, the visit, along with the political events of capitulation that precipitated it, will be a footnote in the Arab history books. And only the meaningful struggle for the liberation of Palestine, begun by its people sixty years ago, will dominate them.

From Israel

## A Statement on Sadat's Visit



Demonstration against Sadat in Washington, D.C.

Public attention in the country and throughout the world is directed today, and justly so, to Sadat's visit to Israel. Many genuinely hope that this visit will open an avenue towards peace, which is now discussed by everybody.

Can this visit realise these hopes?

Our answer is a negative for the following reasons:

The root of the conflict in the Middle East is not in the conflict between Israel and Egypt, but rather in the dispossession of the Palestinian Arab people from its homeland, its exile and the denial of its natural right to exist as a people, in addition to the denial of its national and human rights.

Sadat's visit is directed to circumvent "procedural problems" in order to bypass the recognized representative of the Palestinian-Arab people, namely, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Even if Sadat succeeds in getting Begin's consent to the return of the Sinai peninsula to Egypt, or alternatively Begin succeeds to wrest out of Sadat portions of the Sinai, the Palestinian problem will remain unsolved, and therefore peace will not be achieved.

The road to peace must go through the recognition and the realization of the right of the Palestinian-Arab people to self-determination and to return to its homeland. Any settlement reached behind the back of Palestinian-Arab people or at its expense and without the participation of its recognized representative the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) will not bring peace to the peoples of the area. It will rather constitute a prelude to a new war.

So long as the reality of life for the Palestinian-Arab people under Israeli rule is subject to confiscation of lands, destruction of houses, colonization, Judaization of the Galilee, the suppression of basic human rights and the murder of citizens like the murder of the seven Palestinians on the day of the land and in Majd al-Karum — talk about peace in Jerusalem, Cairo, Geneva or any other place is nothing but an illusion and an exercise in deception of the public which is hoping for peace.

The road to peace goes through Palestine — not through Sadat.

— Harakat Abna' al-Balad (The Sons of the Village Movement)

— The Revolutionary Communist League (Matzpen-Marxist)

— The Socialist Organization in Israel (Matzpen)

— The Editorial Board of Key (Miftah) Publishers

Address for Correspondence:

P.O. Box 47

Umm al-Fahm, Israel

19-11-1977

# Kaddoumi: No Peace Without Palestinians



Kaddoumi gives speech at Arab celebration in N.Y.

(Text of speech at UN General Assembly)

"I hesitated for a long time before I finally decided to speak in order to dwell briefly on General Dayan's statement which he delivered yesterday before this august Assembly. I hesitated because I thought, like many others that his own words inherently carried the dicta of the international community on Israel's desire for peace.

However, since we are now again at the crossroads to either war or peace, it is imperative that each side should make its position clear in no uncertain terms. In all his television, press and United Nations utterances the ex-general adhered to his cliché that the PLO is a bunch of terrorists. May remind him that he is a member of the Cabinet of the infamous Menachem Begin, the terrorist par excellence who boasted in his book, *The Revolt*, which is his pride and joy, of the atrocities he had perpetrated. Since he is a retired General it should not escape Mr. Dayan's memory that terror breeds terror and intransigence breeds intransigence.

It is now amply clear to all concerned, that



Kaddoumi kissing Palestinian flag

the Palestine problem is the central issue in the Middle East conflict. This Assembly has already recognized, reaffirmed, and even devised the means for the attainment of our inalienable rights to self-determination, repatriation, and independence. The recent joint Soviet-American statement has called for the ensuring of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The overwhelming majority of the United Nations Member States, including the United States Government, are now unanimous in their belief that ours is a political problem and not only a humanitarian one.

But the ex-General takes exception to all this. He does not see eye to eye with the international community. He has both the audacity and tenacity to refer to international law and say that in mandatory Palestine, where Arab Palestinians lived uninterruptedly for 1,300 years, nobody has claims of sovereignty better than Israel.

He wonders about, and almost questions, Mr. Cyrus Vance's right to sign the joint Soviet-American statement because it made reference to our legitimate rights.



PLO delegation at Arab reception

He is diametrically opposed to President Carter, the President of his country's most indispensable ally. President Carter declared recently that Israeli settlements are an obstacle to peace. But Mr. Dayan was categorical and unequivocal when he informed this United Nations body yesterday that the settlements are legal.

Despite the usurpation of our country and the injustices that have been inflicted on our people, our Palestine National Council, which is the highest legislative body within the Palestinian body politic, already opted for an independent and sovereign Palestinian State to be established under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization on liberated Palestinian soil, in congruence with resolutions of this Assembly, adopted in 1974. Mr. Dayan, however, believes that Palestine is his ancestral land - thus defying your will and flouting your resolutions.

Nevertheless, despite the hallucinations and fabrications contained in his statement, Mr. Dayan had one moment of truth towards the end of the statement when he declared:

(continued on page 7)

## At Duke University

### Jerusalem Must Be Liberated

Theologians from across the United States gathered at Duke University on November 11-12, 1977 to present scholarly religious perspectives on the ancient city of Jerusalem.

The conference attempted to propose solutions to the problem of Jerusalem based on the Christian, Moslem and Jewish faiths. It was sponsored by The Triangle Friends of the Middle East and the Duke Arab-American Association.

Rabbi Elmer Berger, president of the American Jewish Alternatives to Zionism, said that Israel can lay no claim to a homeland until it fulfills the terms of a covenant with Yahweh. Because of the Israeli treatment of Palestinians, this covenant has not been fulfilled, he said.

He quoted Micah, an Old Testament prophet: "Hear this, I pray you, ye heads of the house of Jacob, and rulers of the house of Israel, that abhor justice and pervert all equity; that build up Zion with blood and Jerusalem with iniquity . . . Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of a forest."

Father Joseph Ryan, rector of Holy Cross College in Worcester, Mass., gave his version of the Catholic perspective on Jerusalem. He referred to two statements by Pope Paul VI in 1967, in which the Pope called for an internationally-guaranteed special status for Jerusalem and asked that the civil and religious rights of all communities in Palestine be respected.

Ryan said the effect of Roman Catholic policy is dependent on the support of Catholics and other Christians, particularly in the United States.

Ishaq Musa Husaini, professor emeritus of Arabic studies at the American University of Cairo, presented a paper tracing several centuries of Jerusalem's history.

He concluded that "Islam afforded the city the most tolerant period, because of its very nature, being the religion of all the prophets, from Abraham to Muhammad."

Husaini also said that "Muslims never committed against the Jews anything similar to the Inquisition in Spain, the pogroms of pre-communist Russia or the Fascist holocaust. Similarly, it will be unfair to judge the Israelis by individual incidents, although these incidents have been rather frequent and, if continued, could lead to a disaster."

"It has been said," Husaini stated at the end of his paper, that "politics and morality should not be treated apart. I add: politics and facts should not be treated apart." He stressed that peace will come to Jerusalem only when there is justice for the Palestinian people.

Ibrahim Abu-Lughod, professor of political science at Northwestern University, said the population of Jerusalem has shifted drastically in recent years in favor of the Jews.

He noted that from 1948 to 1967, the population of the predominantly Moslem and Christian Old City grew by only about 15 per cent, while the Jewish section (the New City) doubled in size.

A press release by the Duke Arab American student association stated that the consensus of persons attending the conference was that "a complete solution to the Middle East conflict must include access by all to the holy places revered by these three great religions.", and that Israeli occupation of the city must come to an end.

# Archbishop Capucci Released, Deported to Rome



*PLO representative Hout greets Capucci*

Under pressure from the Vatican, the Israeli authorities released Archbishop Hilarion Capucci from jail and immediately deported him to Rome on November 7, 1977. Before boarding the plane in Israel, Archbishop Capucci knelt down and kissed the soil of occupied Palestine. He was greeted at Rome airport by hundreds of Palestinian students, as well as representatives of the Vatican, the Orthodox church and the PLO. He told reporters at the airport that his heart bleeds because he left his country Palestine, and that he cannot survive if he is unable to join his people in the Arab world. He said if I cannot go to the Arab countries, then I am still a prisoner, my hands and legs and mouth are chained. Capucci was referring to Israel's precondition for releasing him that he should not be allowed to visit the Arab countries.

At a reception honoring the Archbishop, the PLO representative told Capucci, "I bring you the greetings, great love and admiration of Chairman Arafat and all the freedom fighters and the people of Palestine. You have been their symbol of sacrifice and perseverance. They pledge to you to continue the struggle for freedom." Archbishop Capucci said the following: "My happiness cannot be described for meeting you. Yet my heart bleeds because I have left my people, my children and family in occupied Palestine. I have left the small prison to a larger prison, but I pledge to continue the struggle until the bells toll for freedom in Jerusalem. I have been denied the right to go to the Arab countries. In Rome I am a stranger, exiled. That is why I will pray for the Arab nation, for its unity. I will remain a loyal servant of the Arab people."

The Chairman of the PLO, Yasser Arafat spoke to Capucci by phone and told him: "We welcome you back among your people and your revolution. You have carried the burden of Palestine with honor and that is why Palestine will win because it has leaders like you. The bells of Jerusalem will toll for you and all the freedom fighters as they return to celebrate in their beloved city."

Following are excerpts from an interview with Capucci: "I have sacrificed for my people and my nation and I followed the way of our teacher Christ who also sacrificed for humanity. That is why I bowed down and kissed the soil before leaving my homeland, for I have given that land my blood and tears and I carry it now in my heart. I send my warmest greetings to brother Arafat and all the freedom fighters and I salute their struggle and sacrifices and I assure them that I will always support freedom fighters everywhere. I call on all Palestinians to continue the struggle with strength and determination because we are fighting for justice. We are seeking our rights and we shall regain our full rights.

In my new exile I will live with you, with the people of Palestine, and I will sacrifice everything for Palestine, for its revolution. I will give everything so that Palestine will live, and



*Capucci greets well-wishers*

we can return victorious and be reunited on our soil.

The Israelis abused me in prison. They locked me in a small cell and told me all kinds of lies. Yet in prison my soul was free and I felt close to God. I was surrounded by walls and barbed wire and yet I felt free and the prison was open to the sky. My thoughts were always with Palestinians, I was with them and never felt separated. I suffered in prison, yet suffering cleansed my soul. Suffering makes one pure. It is an honor for me to suffer for justice, for the cause of right.

I was on hunger strikes in prison for one and a half years. I sat in my cell for four and a half months in the dark, unable to see the sun and know whether it is day or night. In the last days of my fast I could not read or see. I suffered from pains in my back and I could only pray and think of my people. That is why God answered my

prayers and now I can meet my people, and I can send my greetings to brother Arafat and all the freedom fighters. Yet I still yearn for the day I can return to my homeland, to Jerusalem.

I am a man of religion and I serve my people and my country. That is why it was my duty to defend my country Palestine. As the spiritual leader of the holy land I had to defend the Palestinian people. How could I remain silent while they suffered, where oppressed, persecuted and denied their rights? Thus I entered prison against my will. My duty brought me to jail. I would have preferred to remain there rather than be exiled, denied the right to see my people and assist them. They have denied me the right to visit the Arab countries and that is why I feel I am in a larger prison. Yet I will accept this and continue the struggle for justice. I will always work for our right to return to our homeland, and I will live on the hope that we shall return."

## Books Available from Free Palestine

|  | dollars |
|--|---------|
| Richard Stevens, Weizmann And Smutts   | 5.00    |
| Alan Taylor, The Zionist Mind  | 4.00    |
| Sabri Jiryis, The Arabs In Israel  | 4.00    |
| Richard Stevens, American Zionism and U.S. Foreign Policy                              | 5.00    |
| Felicia Langer, With My Own Eyes   | 4.00    |
| John Davis, The Evasive Peace  | 5.00    |
| H.I. Hussaini, Toward Peace In Palestine   | 3.00    |
| Gassan Kanafani, Palestinian Resistance Literature Under Occupation (in Arabic)        | 5.00    |
| Rashid Hussein, I am Earth, Don't Withhold The Rain (poetry, in Arabic)                | 3.00    |
| Nabil Shaath, Palestinian Resistance And The Jordanian Regime (in Arabic)              | 5.00    |
| Mahjoub Omar, Dialogue In The Shadow of The Guns (in Arabic)                           | 4.00    |
| Munier Shafiq, The Palestinian Revolution Between Criticism and Distortion (in Arabic) | 4.00    |
| Yasser Arafat, Speech at Palestine National Council - 1977 (in Arabic)                 | 1.00    |
| Yasser Arafat, The United Nations Peace Speech   | 1.00    |
| Mahmoud Darwish, Ahmad Zaatar (poem in English and Arabic)                             | 1.00    |
| Moueyn Bessaisou, My Body...A Sand Bag (poetry, in Arabic)                             | 1.00    |

## At AAUG Convention

# Palestinians Document Israeli Oppression

Five residents of territory controlled by Israel appeared at a press conference during the AAUG Conference in Michigan on October 22, 1977 to tell the American people what happens to persons who oppose the policies of the Israeli Government.

Two of the participants were Israeli Jews and three were Palestinians from territories occupied by Israel since 1967. One Israeli Jew, Israel Shahak, said that he regularly receives death threats when he speaks against Israeli policies before audiences in the United States.

Salim Tamari, a Palestinian professor at Birzeit University in the occupied West Bank said that Israeli authorities imposed harsh taxes on Birzeit University, a small private college, and had detained several patriotic teachers in prison for years, even though no charges had been filed against them.

Nafez Nazzal, a professor at Birzeit, said that the Israelis made it especially difficult for the university to purchase scientific equipment.

He said that the Israelis also barred Arabs who live in Israel proper from teaching or studying at Birzeit on the false ground that Birzeit was a "hotbed of propaganda." He said that he was forced to maintain a foreign passport and to present himself "as a tourist in my own country" in order to teach at Birzeit.

Israel Shahak, president of the Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights, and Lea Tsemel, an Israeli lawyer, described the problems faced by Jews who defend the rights of Arabs in Israel and the lands occupied by Israel.

He said he and Ms. Tsemel were often called traitors by supporters of the Israeli regime and compared this to the treatment of the American abolitionists who opposed slavery.

"It took the abolitionists 20 years to draw the attention of the American people to the fact that slavery was wrong," he said. "People who are for freedom must face the certainty that they will be considered traitors for a long time" when they support unpopular causes.

Dr. Shahak said that when he visits the United States both he and his American hosts receive death threats and that the threats that especially disturb him are those that come from rabbis, some of whom say they wish someone would murder him.

Dr. Shahak said that no American Jewish group had ever accepted his offer to address it but that he was confident his persistence would win in the end.

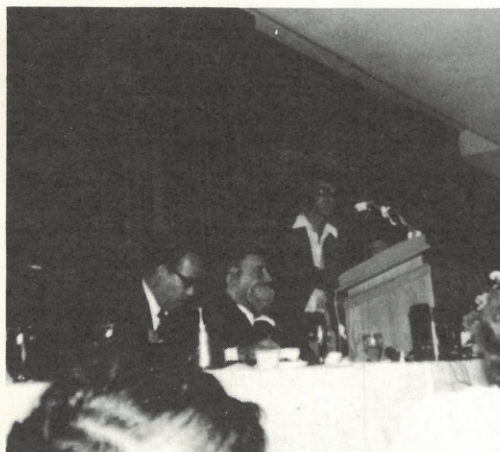
Lea Tsemel said that those who wonder why she is still allowed to criticize Israeli policies and to defeat attempts to disbar her as a traitor must "remember that Israel is a racist state--being a Jew still gives me some privileges."

"They need me for the show," she said, "to pretend they are a democracy that allows full freedom of expression. An Arab who says what I say would be killed." Giving an example of the racist attitudes of many Israelis, she said that when she visits prisons to talk with Arab political prisoners she is defending, the prison guards say, "Here comes that Arab-lover Red lawyer."

"But then," she continued, "one guard will add, 'At least the money is going into a Jewish pocket.'"

However, Ms. Tsemel said, Israelis were increasingly disturbed by their Government's brutal practices because "even some 'good Jewish' suspects have begun to receive electric shock tortures when they are interrogated by the police."

Mary Khass, director of an American Friends Service Committee preschool program in occupied Gaza, said that she and other Palestinian teachers have been refused the right to form a teachers' cooperative. And even at the YMCA, she said, "we can't invite people



*PLO representative Darwiesh reads Arafat's message*

who speak on a political or social subject, and our meetings are frequently banned."

Ms. Khass said that she hoped to give Americans an insight into the conditions that the Israeli Government imposes on the Palestinians in the Gaza region Israel seized and continues to hold despite almost universal condemnation.

She said that Arab laborers from Gaza are referred to as "black labor" by the Israeli Government. "Black labor" means, she explained that, "Gaza workers are paid on a daily basis when they are brought into Israel to work and must return half of this wage to the Israelis for their roundtrip fare to their jobs." The Gazaites are not allowed to stay overnight in Israel proper.

Children are also exploited by the Israeli authorities, she said. "Israeli trucks wait for children 8 to 12 years old to get out of school, then they round them up in trucks and take them long distances to pick fruits and vegetables, for which they are under-paid," she said.

Other difficulties experienced by the Gaza population include high unemployment, demolition of homes by Israelis and forced removal to crowded housing projects that Ms. Khass described as "more like concentration camps."

Oppression is increasing under the new Begin Government, she stated, citing the imprisonment of junior high school students who had peacefully demonstrated at a traditional Palestinian "Day of the Land" rally.

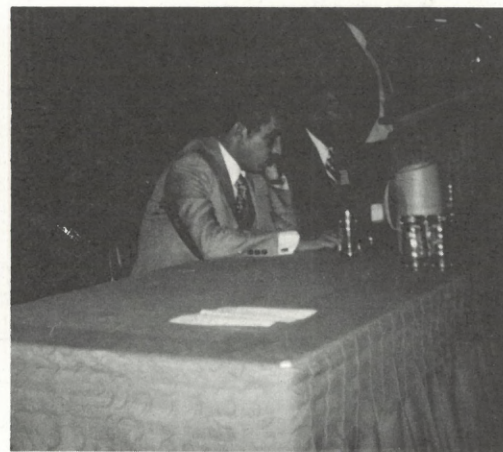
Other speakers at the panel at which Ms. Khass spoke cited documents that showed the harsh process by which the Palestinians' homeland was colonized and is being held.

Shirley Nuss, professor of Sociology at Wayne State University, summed up the discussion of the panelists by observing that the central thrust of the colonists' strategy was the "massive destruction of the Palestinian economy."

Professor Nuss emphasized that the Palestinian people must create a national Palestinian economy based on the right of return for all Palestinians to lands seized by the Israelis, on equal access to education and social services for Palestinians in Israel and on the conversion of Israel into a democratic, secular state.

Other panelists included Saadallah Hallabah, a professor at the University of South Carolina, who discussed how Zionist leaders had cooperated with Hitler to advance the cause of Zionism in the Havara Agreement of 1933.

Taysir Nashif, professor at the University of Oran, showed how land sales were rigged by the Zionists to give a pseudolegal mask to the plunder of Arab landowners.



*Libya's Foreign Minister Turaiki at Convention*

A number of distinguished representatives from Arab States addressed the AAUG conference including the foreign minister of Libya Dr. Ali Turaiki who stressed the need for Arab unity to face the Israeli occupation of Arab lands and to continue the struggle for liberation. He expressed Libya's full support for the Palestine Liberation Organization and called on all Arabs to support the Palestinians in their just struggle to regain their legitimate national rights. Mr. Mahmoud Darwiesh, PLO representative, read to the convention a message from Chairman of the PLO Yasser Arafat which appealed for support and assistance to the PLO in its struggle for liberation, and pledged that the PLO will continue to make sacrifices until the Palestinian people regain their full rights. Mr. Abdel Majed Rafei, member of the Baath Party in Iraq spoke on behalf of the Iraq delegation and stressed Iraq's commitment to the cause of Palestine and its total liberation.

Following are some of the resolutions adopted by the Association of Arab-American University Graduates at its Tenth Annual Convention in Michigan.

"1. The Association is gratified to note that the Palestine Liberation Organization has reaffirmed the commitment of the Palestinian people to thwart the applicability of Security Council Resolution 242 to the settlement of the Palestinian struggle against Zionist colonialism in Palestine. It further salutes the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole representative of the Palestinian people, for its continuing armed struggle and determination to obtain the unconditional liberation of Palestine, in its entirety, and the establishment of a truly liberated, independent, sovereign, democratic secular Palestinian state therein.

2. The Association salutes the P.L.O. for its adherence to and implementation of the principles embodied in the Palestine National Charter; for its continued efforts to strengthen Palestinian National unity and ties with Arab liberation forces; and for its continuing efforts to resist the harmful pressures from reactionary Arab regimes pressing for American Liquidationist solutions.

3. The Association calls upon the Carter Administration and the American media to publicly note that Israel's increasingly vocal references to the Old Testament as justification for Israel's expropriation of Arab lands must be understood as revealing Israel's consistent historic policy of expansionism and exclusivism. The concept of Divine Right is an anachronism long since repudiated.

4. The Association notes with dismay the Carter Administration's silence on Israeli

*(continued on page 7)*

# Diary of a Doctor in Tal Al-Zaatar



After the fall of Tal Al-Zaatar

By Dr. Yusuf Iraqi

The scenes of the massacre unfolded horrifyingly before me. They were taking the inhabitants in batches and gunning them down. One of the fascists was massively built, and he spoke slurringly from drunkenness. He carried a large knife, stained with blood. Every few minutes he would come to wipe his knife, stained with the blood of the inhabitants, on the shirt of one of those sitting by the door. He was slaughtering people in the way sheep are slaughtered, and afterwards would start searching for things in the pockets of the victims. He was a horrifying and repulsive sight, at a moment in which emotions were frozen. They were taking everything from the people.

He noticed the wounded man, injured in his leg, who came out on crutches, with his leg in plaster. How they fell upon him, kicking him with their feet, and then threw him on the ground, and from their five rifles planted bullets in his body. At that moment I was thinking of Dr. Abdulaziz and the remaining nurses, since I did not know their fate. After about 45 minutes, the fascist security official came to us with one of his men, to take us — the two Swedish doctors, the Syrian officer and myself. It was a horrifying exit. We walked along the road leading out of the camp, about 300 metres long, but it was the longest road in my life. The bodies of innocent inhabitants were scattered along that road. There were bodies of old people, bodies of children. I saw the body of a pregnant woman, who had been shot in the stomach. The blood was pouring from her. The bodies lay one after another in front of me, and the road was long, so long. And at the end of the road were their armoured cars, and the fascists enjoying the spectacle of the dead. They took me in a car to the headquarters, and there I was taken into an office.

Shaikh Amin Al Gemayel looked at me sadly and, after I had been introduced to him as the refugee camp's doctor, said: "Look, they say I'm a fascist and my hand is stained with blood. . . but it's clean." After they had greeted me, they washed their hands with spirit, staring at me all the while.

It was as if I had come from another planet, they did not believe that there were human beings inside the refugee camp. They thought they had been fighting ghosts. The camp had been totally destroyed, so where were the people? Where were the combatants? They asked naive questions. There I saw the International Red Cross. I told their representative that Dr. Abdulaziz, together with a group of nurses, had been following me but I no longer knew his fate. Immediately he made contact by wireless, and a car moved off to the Dekwana area to rescue Abdulaziz and the nurses. There was a crowd of journalists and news agency correspondents waiting, who interviewed us, after a strenuous effort since the fascists did not want any statement to be made. They wanted complete silence regarding us, so that our fate would not be known.

They began interrogating me. One of them came forward.

"I'm Dr. Risha, the local medical officer."  
"Welcome."

"Dr. Yusuf, you're accused of discrimination in treating Palestinians and Lebanese, Christians and Muslims. You didn't cure Lebanese, and you drew blood from them till they died, to give it to Palestinians."

I laughed at this allegation. My nerves at that moment were not at all tense. I spoke calmly. I had already settled the question of life and death, and so I told him: "You know the reason for my being here. One of your people rescued me, because one day I performed a surgical operation on him and saved his life. This is enough proof that I don't discriminate between people."

"There's a person who knows you. He's here in the next room, and he testifies that you used to discriminate, and that one day you didn't treat his relative and let him die."

I was completely self-confident, and so I felt that they were waging a losing psychological war against me. "I'm willing to confront him," I answered. "But I have some things to confront you with."

I listed a number of those whom they would classify according to religion and nationality — their dictionary is full of such terminology — and how I had given them surgical operations, saved their lives and restored them safely to their relatives. I confronted him with a list of names, and told him the story of the wounded man, who had been hit in the head with a bullet that had pierced his eye and almost proved fatal — and how I had operated on him and how our fighting men had donated blood for him. I kept on asking about the fate of Dr. Abdulaziz. I would interrupt as they were speaking to ask about him, and they would reply: "Don't be afraid, he will come."

At about 2 p.m. they brought him. They asked him the same questions they had asked me, in another room. I learnt this afterwards. At that moment, my mind was preoccupied with the fate of the female nurses. The fascists had killed a group of male nurses in front of my eyes. They had also killed all the wounded we were carrying.

I thought about the fate of Baha, who had been beside me and whom they had pursued, and Ferial, who had carried my bag, and Fadia, whom I had not seen since we had left the emergency centre. Apprehensions flashed through me, and I imagined that they had all been killed, as well as Dr. Abdulaziz. At about 4 o'clock, after I had insisted, they brought in Dr. Abdulaziz, and disclosed their thoughts and allegations. Several people came to ask for my release, but they still considered us prisoners of war.

It was two p.m. when I saw the Arab Security Forces. We had been waiting for them since 9 a.m.

From the balcony of the room I saw the scenes of celebration, but not for victory. It was with sadistic feeling that they were enjoying the sight of mutilation and slaughter and the dead bodies. Dr. Hassan Sabri Al Kholi, the Arab League representative, came and negotiated for a long time with Amin Al Gemayel, for our release. At 6 p.m. we rode in Dr. Hassan Sabri Al Kholi's car, with Shaikh Amin Al Gemayel himself driving, through the eastern sector where there were many barricades, 12 altogether. Whoever had been spared from the slaughter at the entrances to the



Starving children being brought out of Tal Al-Zaatar after 16-month siege

camp, was killed and mutilated at these barricades. We arrived at the Museum area, which was the Green Line dividing the two sectors of Beirut. There, Amin Al Gemayel got out. Those barricades were a gruesome sight, those corpses. I do not know what would have happened to me if Amin Al Gemayel had not been with us. Perhaps I would have been a victim of the knives, which had mutilated so many, whose corpses had been thrown down on both sides of the road. We continued our way into West Beirut, not believing that we had escaped from the clutches of the fascists. The Red Cross representative had gone ahead of us. Suddenly he stopped his car, got out of it and ran over towards us, and we exchanged a long embrace.

"I didn't believe you would be saved," he said. "I knew what they felt towards you." The car continued on its way with us to the Coral Beach on Beirut's western seafront. Along the way, I saw cars and people, and the signs of civilisation began to return to us, little by little.

It was a warm reunion with headquarters, to end the longest day in my life, after the news that we had been killed had gone ahead of us to the western sector, through statements by camp inhabitants who had witnessed the massacre. Two days after we left, Dr. Abdulaziz and I were with Dr. Fathi Arafat in Damour, choosing a site for a Red Crescent centre, continuing on our course with the people of Tal Al Zaatar who had made such a human and revolutionary impression on our hearts. Tal Al Zaatar remained, with its fighting men, struggling until its martyrdom. It was killed in action and did not fall. It was a hill no more, after it had risen so high and tall. In it were left some 3,000 martyrs who had given their blood to the heroic battle, the battle of determination for this revolution to continue. And two days later, the combatants defending Tal Al Zaatar forced their way across the mountains, through fierce battles with the fascists, to join up with our bases in the mountains.

So ends the legendary battle, the battle of 53 days' fierce combat, and 70 attacks that were repulsed at the boundaries of the capital of the poor, and the commune of the working people.



Demonstrations in Tripoli, Libya against Sadat

# Palestinian Demonstrations (Continued from page 1)



PLO banners in Los Angeles, October 22, 1977

forces and their shouts could be heard: "Sadat don't sell us for money."

Thousands of Palestinians prayed at Jamal Abdel Nasser mosque in Al-Birah town joined by the mayors of the different Arab towns. They expressed their disapproval of Sadat's visit and their full support for the PLO. Karim Khalaf, mayor of Ramallah, spoke at the prayer and stressed that Sadat should not make separate deals with Israel and abandon the rights of the Palestinians under occupation. He said the Palestinians under the leadership of the PLO will continue the struggle for liberation and freedom.

During the Sadat Begin speeches at the Israeli Knesset, a number of members of Rakah party including mayor Tawfiq Zayad interrupted the speeches and said: "What about Palestinian national rights" and "We should recognize the PLO" Of the three Palestinian individuals who met Sadat, Aziz Al-Masri told Sadat that "the PLO represents the Palestinian people".

In Beirut, the PLO issued a statement rejecting the visit and denouncing Sadat. It said that Sadat's step renounces the principles of Arab solidarity, the Arab summit resolutions and the gains of October war, achieved through the heroism and sacrifices of Arab freedom fighters. The statement said the Arab nation will not forgive any Arab ruler for taking such a step, which constitutes a serious turning point and reneging on the Arab nation's historic struggle. The thrust of this struggle has always been the Palestine question and the



Massive demonstrations against Sadat in Beirut

liberation of Jerusalem. It called on the masses of the Arab nation to condemn and denounce this visit, which harms our nation's existence, future and honor. It addressed the Palestinian people in the occupied land and called on them to voice their opposition to the visit and to hold strikes to show that the Palestine cause cannot be betrayed by Arab agents. It said Al-Aqsa mosque, which has been a symbol for martyrdom and the march toward liberation, will not become a temple for capitulation. It stressed that the blood of the thousands of martyrs and the tens of thousands of detainees and prisoners in Israeli jails will stand as an impregnable wall to prevent capitulation and to pave the way for liberating Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa mosque.

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Arafat said in a speech to demonstrators in Beirut that the Arab masses must announce their rejection of shaking hands with the Zionist enemy. He warned of massacres that await the Palestinian Movement as a result of the visit, and urged the Palestinian people to unite and oppose the plots and defend Arab dignity. In an interview with Filastin Althawrah paper, Arafat said that Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem constitutes a serious and critical turning point in Arab struggle. He said as a result of this visit the Palestinian revolution and the entire Arab nation is subjected to grave danger. He said that Sadat's decision was a surprise to him while he was sitting at the Egyptian People's Assembly listening to Sadat.

Fateh Central Committee member Abu-Iyad

denounced the visit in Beirut and said "it is a blow to the Arab nation and a disavowal of the blood and souls of thousands of martyrs who fell defending Sinai, Golan and the occupied territories. It gives legitimacy to Israeli occupation, constitutes a blow to Arab solidarity and disavows the Arab Summit conference resolutions. The wave of angry protests prompted by the visit affirmed that the Arab nation will continue its struggle against the enemy and against all capitulatory plans and rulers who surrender."

Ribhi Awad, Fateh representative in Cairo who was expelled with three other Palestinian leaders from Egypt including the PLO representative Jamal Sourani, said in Beirut that Egyptian security officers gave him only a few hours to gather his effects and put him on the first plane to Beirut. He said this shows that Sadat's regime is in collusion with the Zionist enemy in suppressing all free voices and deporting Palestinian leaders.

All over the Arab World, protests and demonstrations took place indicating the Arab people's anger and opposition to Sadat's move. Mass demonstrations occurred in the major Arab capitals; Damascus, Baghdad, Algiers, Tripoli, Beirut and others. In Libya, Presidents of Algeria, Syria, South Yemen, the PLO and Iraqi representatives met and formulated a united stand to oppose Sadat's policies. They issued a declaration calling on the Arab masses and governments to mobilize all resources to continue the struggle for liberation, and declared that they were "freezing" relations with Sadat's regime.

In Washington, D.C. more than five hundred demonstrators marched against the Egyptian Embassy carrying banners denouncing Sadat as a traitor and expressing support for the Palestinian Resistance Movement.

## Kaddoumi (continued from page 3)

"The heart of the problem is the Arab refusal to recognize the right of Israel to national sovereignty in the ancient, historical land of the Jewish people." (A/32/PV.27, p. 87)

a fitting epitaph to the efforts of those who naively believe that Israel will budge an inch from occupied Arab territories out of its own free will. Was it not the self-same General who declared immediately after the 1967 war:

"If you look at the Bible, you find the land of the Bible and on no account will we give up our rights to the land of the Bible." The land of the Bible comprises most of the Arab world.

We are not alarmed, but we are not optimistic. We will continue to have faith in this Organization and in the good offices of all those who realize the dimensions of the eruption of a new war in our part of the world. Our armed struggle will continue because we are witnessing a voracious Israeli territorial appetite.

General Dayan may stick to his *Pax Israelica*, inspired by his Zionist creed; and we will stick to our armed struggle, inspired by our love of just peace, freedom, repatriation and sovereignty in Palestine.

Being the catalyst and the detonating factor, the people of Palestine, supported by the Arab peoples, are capable of disrupting any peace that may be concluded at their expense.

Let it be crystal clear: no peace without the Palestinians and no Palestinians without the PLO."

The Palestinian Arab community in New York city held a celebration in honor of the PLO delegation to the United Nations on December 3, 1977, which was attended by more than four hundred people, including representatives of more than sixty delegations to the U.N. The program included a speech by brother Kaddoumi stressing the determination to continue the struggle until total victory, as well as a solidarity message from the representative of Vietnam to the United Nations.

## Palestinians Document.

violation of Palestinian and Arab human rights in all areas controlled by Israel. It views such silence as collusive support of these widespread and consistent violations, and invites Americans of good will to disassociate themselves from their government's indifference to Palestinian human rights.

5. The Association condemns continuing American military, political and financial support to the Israeli regime. This support enables Israeli military forces to continue occupation and exploitation of Arab lands, to confiscate such lands and establish colonial settlements. American support thus underwrites and sustains Israeli expansionism and racism, actively promoting conflict, oppression and war in the Middle East. Accordingly, the Association strongly urges the immediate termination of American military, economic and political support to Israel. By doing so, the United States will contribute to peace and justice for all the people of the region and will be more consistent with the basic beliefs of the American people and with legislation provided in the Security Assistance and Export Control Act of 1976 and the Foreign Assistance Act withholding aid to the countries "the government of which engages in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights." The Association also deplores the massive military sales to reactionary governments in the region

(Continued from page 5)

which continue to repress and deny intellectual freedom and human rights to their people.

The national leadership of the Association of Arab-American University Graduates and other Arab-American representatives met with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance on Friday, November 18, 1977 and presented to him a statement reflecting their organization's views regarding current U.S. Middle East policy. The AAUG disagreed with the current initiatives of the Carter administration and was skeptical whether this policy will lead to a lasting peace in the Middle East. In particular, the AAUG cited the Carter administration's failure: to recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people; to recognize the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including their right to establish a sovereign independent state; to recognize the right of the Palestinians to return to their homes; to recognize the necessity of full PLO participation in any re-convened Geneva conference; to recognize the need of the U.S. to demand full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories; to speak out against Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights. The AAUG stressed that without recognition of these Palestinian rights no lasting Middle East peace is possible.

Representing the AAUG at the press conference was AAUG President-elect Dr. 'ouad Moughrabi.



Scenes from Demonstration in Washington, D.C., December 1, 1977



## In Defence of Palestinian Detainees

The Palestine Human Rights Campaign has launched special emergency campaigns to defend the rights of two Palestinian political prisoners. They are:

1. Taysir al-Aruri—an "Administrative Detainee" who has been held in prison without charges or trial for 3½ years. His term was last renewed for a six-month period in July of 1977.

The P.H.R.C. has been active in behalf of Taysir for almost one-half year now. They sponsored a press conference at the national Press Club, July 18, 1977, to dramatize his case.

In addition, they have launched a letter writing campaign for Taysir and have succeeded in securing several U.S. endorsements for his case. Most recently the American Mathematical Society has adopted the case of Taysir al Aruri.

2. Muhammad Mehdi Bassiso — has served 3½ years of a fifteen year prison term. He was convicted of the purely political "crime" of belonging to a Palestinian organization. Bassiso is, at present, in very poor health.

After each 6 month period, Taysir is taken before the Military Committee on Administrative Imprisonment and is given a choice between remaining "administratively imprisoned" without charge or trial or signing a document that he will "voluntarily" emigrate permanently from Palestine.

Taysir's cousin, Naseer Aruri, is chairman of the Political Science Dept. at Southwestern Mass. University. On January 24, 1975 and May 23, 1975 he visited Taysir in the Ramallah Prison on the West Bank. He was only allowed to see his cousin in the presence of Israeli officials. One Israeli official replied to Naseer Aruri's query about possible charges against Taysir by saying "It is not what he did, but what he might do." Also, the acting President of Birzeit University, when he posed the same question to the Israeli Military Governor of Ramallah district, was told that Taysir-Aruri was being held because of what he "thought about doing." Taysir al-Aruri was detained when he was engaged in teaching Physics and Mathematics at Birzeit University. He was the only Physicist on the staff of that University.

Please send letters to any one or all of the following:

- 1) Your own Congressional Representatives
  - 2) Walter Smith  
Arab-Israeli Desk  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520
  - 3) Patt Derian  
Human Rights Office  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520
  - 4) President Jimmy Carter  
White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500
  - 5) Israeli Embassy  
1621 22nd Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20009
- Send copies of all letters to:  
P.H.R.C., National Office  
1322 18th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

A more complete profile of each prisoner is given below:

### TAYSIR AL ARURI

Taysir is a 30 year old Palestinian from the town of Arura in the West Bank. He is a professor of Physics at Birzeit College. Taysir al Aruri was detained on April 23, 1974 and has been kept in prison until now, under what the Israeli Military Authorities call "Administrative Imprisonment."

### Mohammed Bassiso

Mr. Bassiso was sentenced for 15 years on May 23, 1973, after being convicted of being a member of an illegal organization. At no time did he undertake any illegal action nor were any proven against him. The 15 year sentence was, therefore, extremely long for the charge upon which he was convicted. Inside the prisons, Mr. Bassiso has been a leader and organizer of his fellow prisoners against the very poor conditions of imprisonment. Mr. Bassiso was charged while in prison of attacking a prison guard and was beaten savagely by the guards at that time. He participated in a leadership role in the hunger strikes at Ashkalon Prison for which he suffered very severely. He was separated, with 3 other leaders, from the other strikers and placed in a completely closed cell for 24 hours. On another occasion, as he told his attorney F. Langer, he and one other leader, had been kept for 15 days in a completely closed cell, without access to any facilities of personal hygiene. Demands for medical treatment and inspection were also denied, although Mr. Bassiso suffers from ulcers. F. Langer's request that a doctor from outside the prison be allowed to see Mr. Bassiso, due to his physical condition, have also been denied.

The hunger strikers broke their first strike because the prison authorities agreed to discuss their demands. As it became apparent that nothing would develop, the prisoners reinstated the strike. Mr. Bassiso's statement to F. Langer states their aim: "We do not ask to be recognized as war-prisoners. We have no political demands. We only ask that our conditions should be equal to those of the Jewish criminal prisoners." According to information from F. Langer, of June 15, 1977, the conditions have still not improved, and the prisoners are considering another strike.

Free Palestine is a monthly paper published by the Friends of Free Palestine. All readers are invited to participate by submitting their comments, letters and articles.

فلسطين حرة  
free palestine

P.O. Box 21096, Kalorama Sta., Washington, D.C. 20009

(Send to above address)

Please enter a year's subscription for *Free Palestine*.  
Enclosed is \$10.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City & State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**BULK RATE**  
**U. S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
 Washington, D. C.  
 Permit No. 44511

N.Y. PUBLIC LIBRARY, DIV. 0  
 GRAND CENTRAL STATION  
 P.O. BOX 2231  
 N.Y., NY 10017

108