

Palestine

**P.L.O.
information
bulletin**

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REVOLUTION UNTIL VICTORY

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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THE GOLAN ANNEXATION

Israel's declaration to officially annex the Golan Heights was not a surprise to the international community. The Golan area has been under Israeli occupation since June 1967, and Israel has always refused to abandon this territory. Israel claims, as usual, that the Golan is vital for the so-called security of the state of Israel.

Before that, Israel had announced the official annexation of East Jerusalem, and declared the Holy City as the "unified capital of the state of Israel". As a justification for this step, the Israelis declared that the Holy City is important, not only for security reasons, but also for "spiritual and moral" reasons. More arguments were given by Israeli propaganda on this particular issue. They also claimed that "Jerusalem shall never be divided as Berlin." Other emotional arguments were used from the Old Testament for the current situation about the importance of the Holy City to Israel.

Israeli logic is a peculiar one; they justify their deeds in their own way. Israel is the only state which has "security" needs in the Middle East. The security of the other states is not important, never mind the Palestinians. For the Israelis, the Palestinians do not have anything to say. Golda Meir said of the Palestinians in 1969: "They do not exist."

Let us assume that the U.S., the main backer of Israel, was not happy about this Israeli annexationist step. But the veto used at the Security Council is a blatant encouragement to Israeli arrogance. Nobody could imagine that Israel could take such action without tacit U.S. encouragement. Nobody could

imagine that the U.S. superpower could be blackmailed by the small, arrogant state of Israel.

Another scandal in U.S. history is the extradition of the young Palestinian student, who was studying in the U.S.A., to Israel. A Palestinian student of Jordanian citizenship accused by the Israeli occupation authorities to have thrown a bomb at an Israeli patrol. What a crime! ! The resistance against foreign occupation is seen as a crime by the U.S.A.! What a scandal! ! A superpower, the U.S.A., bows to Israeli-Zionist blackmail! !

Well, the history of U.S.-Israeli alliance and connivance is not new. The U.S.A. can tell its friends in the Arab World many stories, but nobody will believe them. The U.S.A. can always try to calm down the anger of the Arab World over using its vetoes in support of Israel's arrogance, but this will not work for ever. Even if some Arab regimes accept it, the Arab peoples and the Palestinians will not.

Everybody knows the old saying, that "the friend of my enemy is my enemy." In this case, the U.S.A. is not only the friend of Israel; it is the only backer and supporter of Israeli aggression. Israel's wars and aggression have been launched using U.S. weapons and equipment.

For all Israel's aggression, for the continuous occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights, as well as other Arab territories, we have to put the blame on the U.S.A.. The U.S.A. also bears the responsibility for the coming Israeli aggression. The Israeli build-up in the south of Lebanon and in the north of occupied Palestine is composed entirely of U.S. tanks, vehicles and equipment.

PALESTINE CHRONOLOGY

January 5: PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat met with Syrian President Hafez al-Assad in Damascus. The meeting was attended, on the Palestinian side, by Khalid al-Fahoum, President of the Palestinian National Congress and PLO Executive Committee members Abdel Muhsin Abu Maizar, Yasser Abed Rabbo, Talal Naji, Abu Maher al-Yamani, Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi and Hamed Abu Sitta; and on the Syrian side by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Abdel Halim Khaddam. The meeting focused on the latest developments in all their aspects.

January 6: Arafat received a letter from Albanian President Enver Hoxha, in answer to his message of congratulations on the President's re-election as Secretary General of the Albanian Workers' Party and on the 40th anniversary of the Party's foundation.

Hoxha thanked Arafat for his warm wishes, and reiterated the Albanian people's full support for and solidarity with the just and heroic struggle of the Palestinian people against Zionism and imperialism and to realize their national goals and regain their legitimate rights.

January 7: Arafat received a cable from the President of Mali, Moussa Traore, on the occasion of the New Year.

The Mali President affirmed his country's stand in support of the struggle of the Palestinian people, and their right to return, self-determination and establish their independent state on their national soil.

January 9: Yasser Arafat received a cable from Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev thanking Arafat for his message of congratulations to the Soviet leader on his 75th birthday.

In the cable, which was handed to Arafat by the Soviet Charge d' Affaires in Beirut, Brezhnev wished Arafat and the Palestinian people more victories and the realization of their national goals.

He also wished the Palestinian people courage and the PLO new successes in its struggle to realize national liberation and the establishment of an independent state, and for the sake of a just peace in the Middle East.

January 10: Arafat met with the General Secretary of the Arab League Chadli al-Qleibi, in the presence of the Arab League's representative in Lebanon, Mahmoud al-Ma'mouri, and Fateh Central Committee member Abu al-Walid.

The meeting dealt with the situation in south Lebanon, in the light of the Israeli military build-up, and with the Fez Summit resolution concerning Lebanon and means of implementing it.

The two sides also discussed the situation in the area and the current development in the Palestinian and Arab arenas and ways of consolidating Arab solidarity.

January 11: PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat met with a parliamentary delegation from Holland. The delegation, consisting of eight members of the Parliamentary Defence Committee, and headed by a representative of the Dutch Labour Party, included representatives of the Christian Democratic Party, the Liberal Party, the Democratic Party, and the Christian Reformist Party.

The meeting was attended by Fateh Central Committee member Abu al-Walid, Sakhr (Abu Nizar), Secretary of the Fateh Revolutionary Council, Abu Jaafar, Director of the PLO Political Department and Mahmoud Labadi, head of the PLO Foreign Information Department.

Arafat briefed the delegation on the latest developments of the situation in all its aspects, and in particular the suffering of the Palestinian people under occupation.

Arafat said: "The suffering of our people can be compared to that of Jews and Europeans under Nazism."

He added: "We have the right to ask you and request of you that you study our tragedy and sufferings in depth, because you represent the people of Holland. We are not against the Jews or the Jewish religion. We have proposed to live together with them in a democratic state, but they refused. We demand that international law and resolutions be implemented. It is our right to resist occupation and arrogance, and we will continue to resist them..."

"We are patient and our people have been patient for a long time. The logic of might cannot last forever, and right will be victorious no matter how long it takes."

January 12: Arafat received the Moroccan Ambassador to Lebanon who handed him a letter and photograph album from King Hassan II. Fateh Revolutionary Council member Abu al-Zaim also attended the two-hour meeting.

Arafat met with the Indian Ambassador to Lebanon, with whom he discussed the latest developments on the Arab and international levels, particularly the situation in south Lebanon.

January 13: Arafat sent a telegram to Algerian President Chadli Ben Jedid, offering condolences on the assassination of Rabah Kheroua, Minister Plenipotentiary at the Algerian Embassy in Lebanon.

Yasser Arafat met for one hour with a French parliamentary delegation from the French National Assembly.

The delegation, which was on a fact-finding mission here, was headed by Louis Odru of the French Communist Party, and included François d'Harcourt, a member of Parliament representing the party of former President Giscard d'Estaing (UDF).

Arafat briefed the delegation on the latest developments of the situation in the Middle East, in the light of the Israeli military build-up in south Lebanon, as well as the continuing threats to the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement. Arafat affirmed to the delegation that the Palestinian Revolution was determined to carry on its resistance to occupation, and affirmed that the Revolution will not surrender because of these threats.

He also referred to the regressions in the European position on the Palestine cause, and spoke of the U.S. schemes against the Palestinian people.

The French delegation in turn expressed understanding of the Palestinian position and of the need to establish a Palestinian state as a basis for any settlement of the Middle East conflict.

Yasser Arafat visited the offices of the Lebanese Press Syndicate to offer condolences on the death of the Syndicate's late president Farid Abu Shahla.

Arafat told the members of the Syndicate that Abu Shahla had been one of the most outstanding defenders of the Palestinian Revolution since its inception, and that he had died in defence of the freedom of expression.

The General Union of Palestinian Writers and Journalists (Lebanon branch) for its part issued a statement mourning the death of the Lebanese Press Syndicate head Farid Abu Shahala.

January 15: Chairman Arafat received a cable of congratulations from Souphanouvong, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Laos, in reply to Arafat's congratulations on the sixth anniversary of the establishment of the Laos Republic. The President reaffirmed his country's support for the Palestine cause, and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish an independent state.

January 18: PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat received the Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister, in the presence of the Cuban Ambassador to Lebanon and Farouk Kaddoumi, Head of the PLO Political Department.

The Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister handed Arafat a letter from Cuban President Fidel Castro dealing with the international situation and Cuba's firm stand on the Palestine question and the Palestinian people's rights.

Discussions also covered the forthcoming meeting of the Coordination Bureau of the Non-Aligned States regarding the Palestine question.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat received a special message from the President of Sierra Leone Siaka Stevens. The letter was handed to Arafat by a personal envoy of President Stevens.

Arafat briefed the envoy on the latest developments in the Arab region, with particular reference to the Palestine cause.

**EVENTS
IN
PHOTOS**



Chairman Arafat receives Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister in Beirut.



... and the personal envoy of President Stevens of Sierra Leone.

**ARAFAT SENDS LETTER
TO KHALID MOHIEDDIN**

On January 5 Arafat sent a letter to Khalid Mohieddin, General Secretary of the Egyptian National Progressive Unionist Grouping, in answer to Mohieddin's letter of congratulations on the Revolution's anniversary.

Arafat thanked Mohieddine and the members of his grouping for the support they extended to the just struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO.

He said: "Our struggle was inspired by the struggle of the heroic Egyptian people, their glorious Revolution and their sacrifices for the sake of Palestine and the Arab nation.

"Your support for, and adherence to, the firm struggle of the Palestinian people, their just cause, their armed struggle and their national

aims, are a reflection of the historic and fateful unity between our fraternal peoples. This unity will never be affected by conspiracies and traps, it will on the contrary become stronger, based on a tradition of common sacrifices made in the same trench of struggle, against the same enemy — the only enemy — of our Arab nation: Zionism and imperialism."

Arafat praised the stands taken by Mohieddin's Grouping, "which stem from the character of the great and generous Egyptian people."

He pledged to continue the Revolution's victorious march, out of loyalty to the thousands of Egyptian, Palestinian and Arab martyrs, and to remain committed to the cause "until the liberation of Jerusalem and Palestine, and the return of our people to their homeland, to exercise self-determination, and build their independent state on the national soil in Palestine."

Wafa Signs Cooperation Agreements with Agerpress and A.D.N

On January 16, the Palestine News Agency *Wafa* and the German Democratic Republic News Agency *ADN* signed a two-year cooperation agreement.

Gunter Potshke, Director General of *ADN* and candidate member of the German Socialist Unity Party Central Committee signed on behalf of the GDR agency, and *Wafa's* Director General Ziad Abdel Fattah on behalf of the Palestinian side.

The signing was attended by the GDR Ambassador in Lebanon, Bruno Sedlaczek, and the General Secretary of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (*FANA*), Dr. Farid Ayar.

The agreement involves cooperation in exchanging news, photographs and information, as well as technical support and training for *Wafa*.

Comrade Potshke came to Lebanon in response to an invitation from *Wafa* and *FANA*. During his stay he visited Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Information Minister Michel Edde, and the General Secretary of the Central Political Council of the Lebanese National Movement, Walid Junblatt.

He also toured south Lebanon where he met the Commander of the Joint Forces there, al-Haj Ismail. Before leaving he met Chairman Arafat who appreciated highly the role of GDR in supporting the just struggle of the Palestinian people.

Another cooperation agreement was signed between the Roumanian News Agency *Agerpress* and the Palestinian News Agency "*Wafa*" at the Roumanian News Agency's headquarters in Bucharest in early January.

The two sides agreed to campaign through the activity specific to the mass media for the attainment of the Palestinian and Rumanian people's common goals; to work for the deepening of acquaintance and the development of friendship between the two peoples, and to enlarge the links of friendship and collaboration between them.

The signing of the agreement was witnessed by Khalid al-Shaikh, the PLO Representative in Rumania, and the Assistant Director General of the Rumanian News Agency.

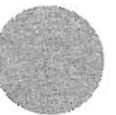
Arafat Receives Soviet Delegation

On January 22, Chairman Arafat received the Soviet Communist Party delegation which is currently visiting Lebanon. The delegation is headed by Brutants, deputy head of the International Relations Department of the Communist Party Central Committee, and includes Comrades Yuri Gradanov and Vyaseschlav Matuzov, in charge of Middle East and Lebanese affairs respectively in the International Department, and Comrade Yuri Suslikov, the Chargé d'Affaires at the USSR embassy in Beirut.

Those present during the meeting included Muhsin Ibrahim, General Executive Secretary of the Central Political Council of the Lebanese National Movement; Nayef Hawatmeh, General Secretary of the DFLP, Dr. Samir Ghosheh, General Secretary of the Popular Struggle Front, Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO Political Department, Abu Iyad and al-Hol, members of the Fateh Central Committee, PLO Executive Committee members Abu Maher al-Yamani, Dr. Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajani, and Yasser Abed Rabbo; and Nadim Abdel Samad, member of the Lebanese Communist Party's Political Bureau.

The meeting dealt with the current situation, and developments on the international, Arab, and local levels. The Israeli-US threats and the US-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement were given special attention. The US-Israeli threats to the Palestinian, Lebanese, and Arab peoples and the Israeli military build up in south Lebanon, as well as the daily Israeli overflights of Lebanese airspace and the patrols by Israeli naval vessels inside Lebanese waters were also thoroughly dealt with. The Israeli decision to annex the Golan Heights and the current US imperialist attempts at intensifying the cold war were discussed as well.

Both parties evaluated positively the firm relations of struggle existing between the USSR, the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement, as well as the common struggle of the USSR and the peoples' of Lebanon and Palestine against US imperialism and Zionism.



**Shocked by the Results
of Israeli Aggression:**

FOREIGN DELEGATIONS VISITING THE P.L.O.

Among the many guests attending the celebrations on the 17th anniversary of the Palestinian Revolution on January 1 were people from all over the world, including several delegations from the United States of America, Canada, Brazil, Norway, Puerto Rico, the GDR, Yugoslavia and Australia. They all saw popular marches and parades, listened to the speeches and were enthusiastic at the folklore performances. Most of them also attended a special reception given for them by PLO Chairman Arafat at the orphans' school of Souq al-Gharb. The delegations also became acquainted with the numerous social and educational institutions organised by the PLO, the hospitals of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society and the workshops of SAMED.

They also visited the south of Lebanon and saw with their own eyes the devastation of homes, crops and public institutions caused by the Israeli aggressors in their continuous raids on Palestinian refugee camps and Lebanese villages. They were all deeply impressed by the suffering and the struggle of the people living there.

Among the foreign guests was a significant American delegation comprising professors from various universities and states. They were led by Professor Philip Rivera from the Lincoln Land College in Illinois. In their meetings with Chairman Arafat and Abu Jihad, as well as other leaders of the PLO, they explained how useful and impressive were the direct experiences which they could gain by seeing the truth on the ground, and they expressed their dismay over the use of U.S.-supplied weapons in the barbaric attacks against the Lebanese and Palestinian people. Chairman Arafat also discussed with them the arrogance of the Zionist state due to the unlimited support it receives from the Reagan administration. He added that the Palestinian people were striving towards a just peace and they are struggling in order to realise this peace, which is dependent on the Palestinian people realising their rights to return, self-determination and the establishment of their own independent state.

The head of the delegation, Dr. Rivera, stated that now more than ever, his delegation was



U.S. professors during their visit to south Lebanon.

convinced of the justness of the Palestinian people's struggle based on the humanitarian principles by which this people wish to realize their aims. He severely condemned American official policy which is biased towards the Zionist aggressor against the Palestinian cause in the United States. Before leaving for a tour of occupied Palestine, the American delegation also met with Lebanese officials, amongst them Lebanese Foreign Minister Fuad Boutros.

The "Christian Clergy and Laity Travelling Seminar" in cooperation with the Middle East Council of Churches organised another delegation from the United States, under the banner "Christian Presence and Witness in the Middle East Today". Led by the Reverend Donald Wagner, campus minister at the Northwestern University of Evanston I.C., they were visiting Lebanon and the PLO before touring the occupied territories of Palestine. They met with Chairman Arafat, Abu Jihad and Abu al-Walid from the PLO leadership. Besides visiting various Palestinian institutions, they made an information tour of southern Lebanon, where they met with inhabitants from the Palestinian refugee camp of Rashidiyeh. They also had talks with the Governor of southern Lebanon, Halim Fayad, in Saida. He explained to them that the repeated Israeli aggression against Lebanon aims at dealing a blow against the Lebanese formula of non-sectarian coexistence between numerous sects and beliefs, and at preventing legality from

exerting its authority throughout the Lebanese territory. Before leaving Lebanon, the American delegation was also received by Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan as well as Foreign Minister Fuad Boutros. Back in the United States, the delegation issued an important statement at a press conference in Washington (see box).

AMERICAN CLERGYMAN DENOUNCES ISRAELI TERROR

The American Reverend Donald Wagner headed a delegation from the American Council of Churches which visited the PLO in Lebanon in early January and then went on to investigate conditions of the Palestinians living in the territories under Zionist occupation. Back in Washington, Wagner held a press conference on January 13 and declared that the regime in Tel Aviv, which benefits from the total support of the United States government, is strengthening its terror and repression against the Arab population in the occupied territories. Wagner stated that the religious delegation found that a growing number of Palestinians are being forced to flee their native land to escape the terror practised by the occupiers. Israeli soldiers are blowing up Palestinian homes leaving entire families homeless. Wagner stated that the members of the clerical delegation had spoken with representatives of the Israeli administration who cynically alleged that such measures, and likewise the bombing of Beirut, were necessary to "assure the security of Israel". Wagner said that members of the delegation were so indignant at these remarks that they walked out of the meeting. Wagner called upon the Reagan administration to put an end to its unconditional support which it accords to Israeli policy towards the occupied territories. Wagner finally stated that if radical measures are not taken immediately to find a solution to the Middle East crisis, there might be a massive bloodbath.

Another delegation came from Brazil, comprising journalists and T.V. officials, among them a member of parliament and former minister, as well as members of the Union of the Palestinian Community in Brazil. They visited schools, SAMED factories and hospitals of the PRCS. In the Arqoub region in southern Lebanon they met with fighters of the joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces defending the border area and could see far into Israeli-occupied Palestine. In their meetings with Chairman Arafat, Abu Iyad and Abu Jihad, they also discussed ways to help in promoting the truth about the Palestinian cause in Brazil.

The Organisation of Arab Students in the United States and Canada were represented by a delegation, which had talks with Chairman Arafat and various other leaders of the PLO,

including Abu Iyad, Abu Jihad and Hani al-Hassan, Nayef Hawatmeh from the Democratic Front and representatives of the Popular Front and the Arab Liberation Front, and also with leaders of the Lebanese National Movement.

The General Secretary of the Organisation of Arab Students in the United States and Canada, Said Fais, confirmed that his organisation's participation in the Revolution's celebrations is "a concrete expression of our unconditional support of the just struggle waged by the Palestinian people under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO."

From Norway, came a delegation of the Christian Students' Movement. They were received by Chairman Arafat and had talks with the director of the PLO Foreign Information Department Mahmoud Labadi, as well as with representatives of the Lebanese National Movement. In southern Lebanon, they visited the refugee camp of Rashidiyeh. Another group, comprising both Norwegian and some Swedish students, came from the Norwegian Travelling School, and they stayed several days in the refugee camp of Chatila near Beirut.

All the delegations and other guests visiting the PLO on the occasion of the January 1 celebrations were impressed by the achievements, the struggle and the spirit of the Palestinian people as they were shocked when they saw with their own eyes the destruction caused by direct and indirect Israeli aggression in Lebanon, with the help of American weapons.

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES DELEGATION VISITS HEBRON MUNICIPALITY

On January 6, a 15-member delegation of the World Council of Churches visited the Hebron municipality, where they met Mustafa al-Natsheh and Hijazi Mudiyyeh, acting Mayors of Hebron and Halhoul respectively, as well as Dora Mayor Muhammad Musa Amir and other local leaders.

The delegation was briefed on the situation in the occupied territories, and on the Israeli authorities' practices in the Hebron area in particular. The Church people learned about the terrorist activities of the Kiryat Arba settlers, the successive curfews imposed on Hebron and the surrounding villages, the attempts to colonise the town of Hebron itself, the continued occupation of Usama Ibn Munqidh School, and the other excesses of the military authorities.

The delegation was further informed of the systematic Israeli campaign to strangle the West Bank economy and deprive Palestinian children of an adequate education. The municipal leaders finally affirmed the Palestinian people's commitment to realising their rights, including that of establishing their own independent state on their land under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

Part of the "Strategic cooperation"
Design:

ISRAEL AND THE U.S.

EXTEND GOLAN AGGRESSION

On December 14, 1981, Israel carried out a new act of international aggression. By a 63-21 vote the Knesset ((Zionist Parliament) annexed the Syrian Golan Heights occupied by Israel since the 1967 war. In less than 24 hours, Begin had rammed through a legislative measure that placed the Syrian Golan territory and population under Israeli law.

This latest move is clearly in contempt of Chapter Seven of the United Nations (UN) Charter, and violates the 1907 Hague Convention that demands respect for local law in occupied territories. Abba Eban, ex-Israeli Foreign Minister, said, "It is not easy to recall a precedent in recent years of a country annexing a territory, hitherto recognised by all nations, including Israel, as part of a foreign country." (*Jerusalem Post*, December 18, 1981).

However, Begin's Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir declared that after the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai in April 1982, Israel will have reached the "extreme limit of its concessions" which it was ready to make for "peace". He added that there would be no more Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab lands (*Agence France Presse*, January 1, 1981.)

The Zionist authorities were enabled to carry out this move due to an agreement on strategic cooperation between the U.S. and Israel signed only three weeks before on November 30.

The material and moral support which the Zionists receive from the U.S. allows Israel to implement fully its policies of aggression and expansionism in the area.

Israel and its U.S. backers decided to use events in Poland as a cloak for the action, in much the same way that in 1956, the Hungarian crisis offered Israel, Britain and France a convenient distraction in an attempt to seize the Suez canal.

Repression on the Golan.

A month after the annexation decision, the Israeli authorities continue their repression of the people of Golan. The Zionist occupation authorities have arrested a large number of Syrian Golan citizens in an attempt to crack down on a wide popular uprising



Israeli military preparations in Golan...

against Israel's annexation. Although the law does not permit indicting juvenile students before military courts, the occupation authorities have brought some 50 students before military tribunals and issued oppressive sentences and heavy fines. Israel answered a 3-day general strike by 13,000 Golan citizens by sending into the area more reinforcements of tanks and other military equipment.

Occupation troops have entered the four main villages; the Zionist army has been patrolling the Golan area and has set up a number of roadblocks. They have launched a "mopping-up operation" in Majdel Shams seeking "armed persons".

The occupation authorities have zionised Arab School syllabuses. 70% of school children receive their education in unsanitary conditions. Israeli laws and legislation are applied in the civil courts. The Syrian Arabs are forced to pay heavy taxes by the Israeli government. Local and religious authorities are imposed on the Golan citizens which serve only the Israeli occupation. Water resources have been seized by the Israelis, while the Golan Arabs are restricted in their use of them. Thousands of acres of agricultural lands owned by Golan citizens, who are mostly peasants and are dependent on the land, have been confiscated. Brutal pressure on the Golan Arabs to accept Israeli citizenship is applied in violation of UN laws and all international agreements including the

Geneva Convention provisions of August 12, 1949, relating to the protection of citizens in time of war.

Israel has begun turning its military checkpoint on the western outskirts of Quneitra on the Golan plateau into an international border crossing. This is clearly in defiance of the December 17 UN resolution unanimously condemning the Israeli annexation. The town is a scene of total destruction. Hardly a house remains standing and a UN report states that the Israelis systematically used bulldozers and dynamite to destroy the town before they were forced to hand it back to Syria. Of 53,000 inhabitants, only four remain. (*International Herald Tribune* Jan. 13, 1982.) Druze families in the Golan led by national leaders Kamel Kanj Abu Saleh and Mahmoud Hassan Safadi from Majdel Shams have demanded that the UN protect the civilian residents of the Golan and force Israel to respect all international agreements concerning the treatment of civilians under occupation. In a letter to UN General Secretary Javier Perez de Cuellar, they said that the occupation authorities attempted to force them to take Israeli citizenship, to efface their national identity and use all sorts of measures which conflict with international law, UN resolutions and international conventions to do so.

Threat to South Lebanon

The immediate effect of Begin's new action was to throw new sparks at the Middle East powder keg. Tension is increasing by the hour with the threat of a large-scale Israeli operation, hanging over south Lebanon. There has been a significant build-up of Israeli military forces in the area and Israel continues to bring military hardware, in particular artillery pieces, tanks and armoured personnel carriers, into the southern Lebanese border strip already occupied by Israel since 1978. At the same time Israeli military aircraft repeatedly violate Lebanese airspace.



... and south Lebanon.

The danger of a new Israeli invasion into south Lebanon was also clearly revealed in a manifesto of the Israeli Labour party (Mapai). Former Labour Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin envisages "a deep penetration into Lebanon by the Israeli army, in

order decisively to remove the Palestinian presence in south Lebanon, in case of a break in the ceasefire by the PLO".

Former Israeli Chief-of-Staff Mordechai Gur said in a radio interview recently that Ariel Sharon, the Zionist war minister, wanted war with Syria and the Palestinians at no matter what cost. Details of a planned extensive Israeli military operation have been published by the Beirut daily *As-Safir* (January 16, 1982). The plan code-named "Liva" previews heavy shelling of Syrian and Joint Forces positions, a sea blockade of Lebanese ports, and a tank attack on the Beqaa-Aishiyeh-Jezzine area and southern coastal road. The plan was expected to be launched in the coming two months. The aggressive Israeli build-up against Syria and Lebanon has coincided with reports of internal unrest instigated in Syria.

American Support.

A worldwide wave of indignation and condemnation arose over Israel's annexation of Golan. Syria responded by declaring that Israel's move amounted to an act of war. The UN Security Council issued a unanimous resolution that declared the Israeli action to be "null and void" and demanded that Begin's government rescind its legislation by January 5, 1982. The Council would then decide on further measures if by that date Israel had not complied.

Washington's hypocritical "condemnation" of Tel Aviv's decision has proved to be short lived. U.S. Senator Charles Percy held a meeting with Begin on January 5, and said afterwards that he hoped their discussions signalled a "new beginning" in the "special friendship" between the two countries. In an *NBC* television interview (January 7, 1982) Reagan said, "I still believe the U.S. and Israel are bound together as they have been in the past (and) that the moral obligation of this country (is) to ensure the existence of Israel as a nation. We are not going to retreat from that."

On January 11, a delegation from the Defence subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee visited Israel. Joseph Abbaddo, the leader of the delegation said that the U.S. would not apply sanctions against Israel. After the meeting he told reporters that he could really "understand" why Israel had taken the decision to annex Golan.

Manoeuvres at the UN

The U.S.'s hypocritical stand is further evidenced in the noticeable intensification of Western manoeuvres in the corridors of the UN in order to avoid sanctions against Israel. The U.S. administration is actively engaged in attempts to impede any resolution which may call for punishing Israel. Counting on Britain and France to uphold their obstructionist position, but taking into account that this is



(From Left to Right) Delegates of Britain, Israel and the U.S. to the U.N. discussing manoeuvres.

insufficient with regard to the actual share of votes in the Security Council, the U.S. worked unceasingly to put pressure on the delegates of Spain, Zaire and Panama to abstain.

The Israeli ambassador to Washington Ephraim Evron was assured by U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig that the U.S. would veto any move in the Security Council to impose sanctions. (*International Herald Tribune*, January 6, 1982.) On December 17, the UN Assembly had also adopted a resolution condemning Israel's "continued occupation of the Palestinian and other Arab territories including Jerusalem, and demanding its immediate and unconditional withdrawal. This motion implicitly rejects the Camp David accords and the recently signed pact between the U.S. and Israel which would only "encourage Israel to pursue its aggressive and expansionist policies". Begin, however, stated during the Knesset debate on December 14, "No one will push us back to the borders of June 4, 1967."

Yehuda Blum, Israel's delegate to the UN, declared that Israel could not and did not accept the resolution, and the Israeli government made known to the UN General Secretary that it had no intention of rescinding the Golan legislation. Arab states later distributed to Council member-States a draft resolution condemning the Israeli decision and calling for a halt to arms supplies to Israel and the severing of diplomatic and commercial relations in conformity with sanctions defined by the UN Charter.

The Syrian ambassador, Dia Allah al-Fattal, said that the Israeli action constituted a clear act of aggression to which the Security Council could only reply with punitive measures. During a UN debate on the issue, sanctions against Israel under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter were favoured by 35 of the 40 speakers.

The behind-the-scenes manoeuvring of U.S. diplomacy prevented the Arabs from going on with their original draft and the sanctions resolution was modified to eliminate a call for UN members to cut off all trade with Israel. But it still called on member-States to break diplomatic relations with Israel, and sanctions remaining in the resolution would embargo all military aid, as well as "economic, financial and technological assistance."

However, a U.S. official said that the elimination of trade sanctions made no difference in Washington's view. The U.S. found unacceptable the proposed resolution's condemnation of Israel and the inclusion of any sanctions.

American Pressure on Panama and Zaire

On the eve of the Security Council meeting, the 93-nation Non-Aligned group met in caucus and adopted a communique expressing its "firm conviction that the international community should immediately apply sanctions against Israel". However, Ephraim Evron said that he was "not anxious" about the American position regarding the UN vote.

The U.S., with the help of crude pressure and blackmail, thwarted the vote on the draft resolution proposed by the Arab countries. On January 14, Washington, resorting to open arm-twisting tactics, compelled Panama, which had earlier expressed readiness to back the Arab draft resolution, to go back on its words. Zaire was another target of U.S. pressure. The U.S. no doubt threatened it would block Kinshasa's access to loans granted by the IMF. As a result, Zaire had promised to abstain from voting unless substantial changes were made in the draft resolution.

For the Security Council to adopt the draft resolution it would have been necessary to obtain 9 votes for a majority on the Council. It was expected that the U.S. and also Britain and France would impose a veto, but in that event, Jordan, the Arab representative, would have been able to accuse Washington of having blocked the will of the majority of the Council and demand the so-called "Uniting for Peace" procedure whereby an extraordinary session of the UN General Assembly could be called. However, an American "no" vote would not count as a veto if the resolution failed to muster nine votes. Jordan postponed the vote and the Arab countries later presented a resolution to the Security Council calling for *voluntary sanctions* against Israel.

Only 6 months previously, Washington had blocked a Security Council resolution which condemned the reckless bombing by Israeli planes on the

Iraqi nuclear research centre and the barbarous air raids by the Israeli airforce against Lebanon. When it is in their interest, however, the Americans do not hesitate to demand all sorts of sanctions against a state. Sanctions are in fact an American weapon which the U.S. has used without regard to their legality — against Libya and Cuba for example. The latest of these sanctions were against the Soviet Union and Poland, because the Polish military took over their country. This, while dozens of pro-American regimes all over the world are being run by military dictators who violate human rights in those countries.

The Kuwaiti daily *al-Rai al-Aam* (January 5) called on Arab states to resort to their "informal veto" if the U.S. uses its veto power to obstruct a resolution by the UN Security Council. "The Arab attitude must not be confined to insistence on inflicting sanctions against Israel as ensured by international legitimacy. They should use what we call the *Arab Veto* to counter the American veto — by imposing sanctions on the U.S."

U.S.-Zionist Complicity

The Israeli law on the annexation creates a dangerous precedent, because, following the annexation of Jerusalem, it prepares the ground for the "legitimate" absorption of the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

However, it is quite clear that Israel would not have been able to undertake such an irresponsible venture, a challenge to the world community, had it not been backed by the U.S. The indisputable truth is that the main cause of Israeli aggression lies in the all-around support it has from the U.S. The identity of imperialist interests and Zionism in the Arab region must be underlined. Since the inauguration of Reagan's administration, Israel has not ceased to multiply its threats, including military preparation without precedent, previewing an invasion of southern Lebanon.

Washington regards Israel as its main bastion in the Middle East; as its principal military strategic base in the region. The huge American aid to Israel — amounting to \$11 billion in the last four years — is rendered first of all in American military and strategic interests. Israel receives not only modern arms, but up-to-date technology, electronic facilities for intelligence gathering and other kinds of military and economic assistance.

This leaves Israel's hands free for aggressive actions against all Arab countries. All the crimes committed by the Israeli military against the Arab people, beginning in 1948, were carried out with undrestricted military, political and economic support from the U.S. Washington does not go beyond merely making "remarks" to its Israeli ally when the latter openly provokes war in the region.

U.S. VETO:

THE LAST FIGLEAF REMOVED.

The Security Council vote, on January 20, on the Arab resolution condemning Israeli annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights gave proof once more of the organic link between imperialism led by the U.S. and Zionist expansionism. The U.S. used its veto power as soon as the resolution had gained the nine votes necessary for a majority. Jordan, the USSR, Poland, China, Spain, Guyana, Uganda, Togo and Zaire all voted for the resolution. The Socialist countries have strongly condemned the Zionist action ever since the annexation was announced on December 14.

Syrian radio responded to the U.S. veto by saying: "The American protection of the Israeli aggression contributes to the substitution of the law of the jungle for international legality." The U.S. rulers "had proven that they are the protectors of Zionist aggression against the whole Arab nation."

Wafa, the Palestinian news agency, issued a communique on January 21, which stated: "The United States' decision to use its power of veto against the Jordanian (Arab) draft has gone some way to settling the argument over whether the original Israeli decision was taken in Washington or Tel Aviv.

"The American veto, and indeed the whole process whereby the U.S. exerted pressures on other states as successive drafts were being prepared, constitute the most brazen endorsement of Israel's no less brazen violation of international charters and resolutions.

"The Golan issue has only confirmed what the raid on the Iraqi nuclear reactor and the 15-day war in south Lebanon against the Palestinian-Lebanese Joint Forces should have made abundantly clear for everyone: standing behind and guiding every hostile Israeli action against the Arabs is the United States."

The American veto, however, must be considered a diplomatic revelation for the Arabs. Now, after gaining the required majority on the Security Council, the Arab states can convoke an extraordinary session of the General Assembly to discuss measures against the Zionist entity.



Meanwhile, the U.S., the main patron and ally of Israeli aggression, is strengthening its armed forces in the Middle East at the same time as Tel Aviv annexes Arab territory. NATO is getting involved in the Middle East conflict, in obvious complicity with Tel Aviv's expansionist plans. A calm Egyptian front is being ensured by the Sinai "peace force" while the Israeli aggressors take aim at Lebanon and Syria and threaten to annex the West Bank and Gaza Strip. U.S., French, and British policies can only encourage the expansionist and aggressive tendencies of Israel towards the Palestinians and all Arab countries. Cheysson and Carrington, the French and British Foreign Ministers respectively, have already stated clearly that the Israeli annexation of Golan would not affect their participation in the Sinai "peacekeeping" force. (see *IHT* January 15, 1982.)

The annexation of the Golan is not a solitary political venture, but one of the elements of imperialist strategy aimed at recarving the map of the Middle East and maintaining tension and the explosive situation in the region. The occupation and annexation of Golan was planned by the Zionists more than 60 years ago when the setting up of a "Jewish homeland" represented the first step in a colonial policy created by imperialist and Zionist aggression against the Palestinian people. Tel Aviv has long planned to bind to Israel, forever, the lands stolen from the Palestinian and Arab people. The latest Israeli step is new evidence of the Zionist aims to annex all Arab territories "from the Euphrates to the Nile".

No state can increase its security by seizing its neighbours' territories. Israel will never be secure while it continues its expansionist policy and maintains its occupation of territories acquired by force and while it does not comply with the will of the international community. This demands the total and

unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all Palestinian and Arab territories occupied since June 1967.

It is highly improbable that the UN Security Council will succeed in imposing effective sanctions against Israel. Only a militant Arab solidarity can restore Arab lands and rights. It is now indispensable for the Arab nation to begin a global preparation to recover legitimate Arab rights by all available means.

Backed by "Strategic Cooperation"
with U.S.;

ISRAEL THREATENS LEBANON, SYRIA, P.L.O. WITH ALL OUT WAR

Israel is threatening another open war against Lebanon, the PLO and Syria. Encouraged by the strategic backing they got from the U.S. for their aggression on the Syrian Golan Heights, the Israeli militarists hold that another act of violence may pay off and remove some of the political and economic deadlocks they and the United States are facing in the region.

Pilloried for breaking all rules of international law and political behaviour, the Israeli leadership reacts by ever expanding its policy of military blows and aggression. Following their annexation of the occupied Golan, the Israelis have concentrated about two divisions on the Syrian and Lebanese borders. While absurdly blaming Syria and the PLO for the increase in tension, the Israeli leaders let no day pass without leaking invasion plans and uttering blunt threats.

On January 9, the Israeli Chief of Staff General Eytan said that "Syria had embarked on the road for a new war". He again brought up the presence of anti-aircraft missiles stationed in Lebanon to protect the Syrian-Arab peacekeeping forces there from Israeli air strikes, and recklessly declared that Israel would not "tolerate the permanent presence of these missiles." He also openly evoked the possibility of another all-out Middle East war ("I hope it will be the last one; it is possible that the entire eastern front of Israel explodes..." *Yediot Aharonot*, January 8, 1982).

On January 15, the *Jerusalem Post*, referring to reports "leaked" from the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv and brought up by the *Washington Middle East Survey*, gave an outline of Israeli plans for ten "surprise operations". According to U.S. ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis, the Israeli "options" for further military strikes included air attacks on Libyan and Pakistani nuclear installations; but according to the *Jerusalem Post* the "most probable" attack was reportedly a large-scale invasion of southern Lebanon, air strikes against Syrian missile positions and attacks on Palestinian centres.

And while the UN Security Council and the international community were still debating the dangerous consequences of Israeli aggression on the Golan, Israeli T.V. on January 15 demonstratively broadcast a detailed scenario for the next Israeli military adventure, commented on again by Eytan.

According to the Israeli strategist it could be "provoked" in the following way: A booby-trapped car would mysteriously explode in Acca, on the northern Mediterranean coast of occupied Palestine, with several Israelis killed or wounded, among them children. Prime Minister Begin, attending the funeral, would then publicly vow, that "terrorism had to be extinguished in the region". "Defense" Minister Ariel Sharon would declare to American Jewish leaders that southern Lebanon had become a centre of "international terrorism". A few days later, Israeli tanks and planes would attack Palestinian centres in Lebanon, and also engage Syrian peacekeeping forces there, thus widening the conflict to overall war.

The Beirut daily *as-Safir* quoting "Arab diplomatic sources", on January 14 published details of the Israeli plans for wide-scale aggression against Lebanon, the Syrian forces, the PLO, and the Lebanese National Movement. An operation, code-named "Liva" and expected to be launched within the coming two months, would include:

- Israeli bombardment of Syrian positions in the Beqaa in eastern Lebanon;
- Shelling of positions of the Joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces;
- An attempt to impose a sea blockade on Tyre and Sidon in southern Lebanon and on Tripoli in the north;
- A tank attack on the Beqaa-Aishiyeh-Jezzine area and the southern coastal road.

According to the sources, Israel intended also to use new weapons such as the U.S. "Lance" missiles. *As-Safir* said that the political aims of the new Israeli aggression were clear: crushing the Palestinian Resistance and the Lebanese Nationalist Forces, weakening Syria, imposing on the Arabs the so-called "autonomy" plan for the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and paving the way for the eventual additional annexation of these territories. As a whole, the violent aggression would expand U.S.-Israeli strategic designs on the entire region.



Israeli Troops in south Lebanon.

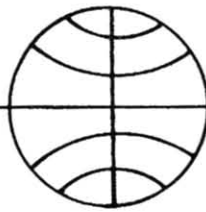


General Eytan: Putting the Israeli-U.S. "strategic cooperation" into practice.

On January 20, the United Nations peace-keeping units in Lebanon (UNIFIL) declared that the Israeli Army "conducted 'large-scale' tank and infantry training exercises in southern Lebanon for two days, firing thousands of rounds of live ammunition" (*International Herald Tribune*, January 21, 1982). The report added that UNIFIL was preparing a complaint about the manoeuvres, which took place in the southern Lebanese border zone already occupied by Israel.

Israel's brutal threats and sabre-rattling are accompanied by a continuous flow of U.S. officials touring the Middle East, from Haig and Habib to Linowitz and Percy. The war threats are a direct outcome of the recent U.S.-Israeli "strategic cooperation" agreement. They show the true face of the American "peace" proclaimed some years ago at Camp David. The United States, while arming and financing Israeli aggression and expansion, tries to tell the Palestinians, the Syrians and all the Arabs, that they would have to surrender "peacefully" to U.S. military, economic and political hegemony over the area, otherwise the Israeli war machine would take off.

The Israeli militarist policy of blackmail and superior *blitz* strikes against its Arab neighbours reminds one of the strategies of aggression and blackmail used by Hitler in the late 1930s to crush and dismantle his "weak" neighbours, in Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland: either to surrender "peacefully" to his diktat, or to face unprecedented devastation from his superior and "invincible" war machine. The historic results for the world and also Jewish people are known.



Following U.S. Israeli Moves on Golan:

SYRIA AND U.S.S.R. REINFORCE COOPERATION, DECLARE NECESSITY FOR COMPLETE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL

During a visit of Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam to the Soviet Union on January 14 and 15, both sides confirmed their will to reinforce cooperation between their countries in all fields on the basis of the friendship treaty signed between the Soviet Union and Syria in 1980. At the end of the two-day talks between Khaddam and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, a joint communique was issued strongly condemning Israel's recent annexation of the Golan backed by the United States of America, denouncing the aggressive Camp David policies and reaffirming that any just peace in the Middle East must be based on a complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and a full recognition of the Palestinian people's national rights. Following are the main excerpts of the Soviet-Syrian joint communique:

Discussions between Mr. Abdul Halim Khaddam and Mr. Andrei Gromyko "centred on the grave situation in the Middle East, resulting from the Israeli decision to annex the Golan Heights. This Israeli measure constitutes a flagrant violation of the UN Charter and resolutions, and a dangerous threat to peace and security in the area and the world at large. The two sides were of the opinion that there is need to confront the recent serious developments in this area.

"They also reviewed matters relating to the situation in the Middle East and the Israeli aggression against the Arab countries. They condemned the Israeli-American schemes in the area, which aim at strengthening the American presence in the Middle East region and at encouraging Israeli expansion at the expense of the Arab nation as a whole and the Palestinian people in particular.

"They agreed that the 'strategic cooperation' agreement concluded between the U.S. and Israel represented a serious event with effects going beyond the Middle East conflict.

"They also stressed their refusal of 'separate deals' and condemned the Camp David accords, the Israeli-Egyptian treaty and the autonomy conspiracy.

"They stressed that a just peace must be based on a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and on full recognition of the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to self-determination and to establishing their independent state.



Khaddam meets Gromyko in Moscow.

"The two sides discussed the American-imperialist attempts to aggravate the situation through their interference in the internal affairs of other countries. The two sides also condemned the attempts at interfering in the internal affairs of the People's Democratic Republic of Poland by the U.S. and its NATO allies in violation of provisions of the UN Charter and international law."

During a reception in honour of the Syrian guest, Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko sharply criticized U.S. policy in the Middle East, which he called a "ferment for the expansionist greeds of Israel". Commenting on the annexation of the Golan, he said: "It is obvious that Israel would not have such a provocative attitude if it had not felt supported and spurred on by Washington. "It was the 'strategic cooperation' understanding between Washington and Tel Aviv, which "has pushed Israel into annexing the Golan." Gromyko also denounced the setting up of the multinational force — "in fact and American one" — in Sinai. He concluded by stating that "the Arabs will never be resigned to the occupation of their lands and never renounce their right to freedom and independence" and by reaffirming the support of the Soviet Union for the struggle of the Arab peoples.

On his return from the U.S.S.R., the Syrian Foreign Minister on January 17 described the results of his visit as "fruitful and constructive for the development of Syrian-Soviet relations."

SAUDI MOVE TO REESTABLISH ARAB SOLIDARIY



Speaking to students at the Dhahran Petroleum University on January 1, Prince Fahd said that Saudi Arabia was not hostile to the socialist camp and could have friendly relations with them.

He also declared that the reestablishment of diplomatic relations with Libya would be "the first step to eliminate Arab differences and create a healthier political climate in order to succeed at the next Arab Summit which is the principal framework for any joint Arab action."

NEW LINKS IN THE CHAIN OF TERROR

The U.S. has embarked on the construction of a new launchpad for aggression in the Gulf region. Transport aircraft and advanced electronic spy systems will be based on Oman's Masira Island and is expected to cost \$100 million. This air base joins two others in Dhofar and near Muscat and forms a new link in a chain of terror which encircles the Indian Ocean and thrusts right into the heart of the Middle East.

Oman participated late last year in the largest U.S. wargames ever staged in the Middle East — operation "Bright Star 81", designed to test the capability of the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force. The *New York Times* reported that six container ships to be converted into troop carriers for the RDF have been bought by the Pentagon for \$208 million. They are part of a 20 — vessel fleet capable of transporting a 30,000 — man invasion force and equipment to the Middle East and Gulf Region.

Meanwhile, in Sri Lanka on January 17, a mass rally took place in opposition to plans for a U.S. base at Lanka Trincomalee port. Sirimavo Bandaranaike of the Freedom Party called on all political forces in the country to form a single front to oppose U.S. military presence on Sri Lanka. This would be a threat to the

security of not only Sri Lanka, but to all countries surrounding the Indian Ocean.

DE CUELLAR: CAMP DAVID OBSTRUCTS PEACE IN MIDEAST

In a press interview with the daily *New York Times*, the U.N. Secretary-General Mr. De Cuellar confirmed that the establishment of a Palestinian state is an important question to achieve durable peace in the Middle East. *Voice of America Radio* quoted Mr. De Cuellar as saying that the setting up of a Palestinian state is a legitimate demand. De Cuellar added that the Egyptian-Israeli agreement obstructs the search for a lasting peace in the Middle East.

DANGER MOUNTS IN CHAD

The Chadian people have suffered for decades under the weight of French imperialism. After the colonial period, France and the U.S. never ceased their indirect interference in Chad, dividing the population and creating internal instability. In November 1981, under French and U.S. pressure, Chad asked the Libyan defence forces to pull out from the country.

The withdrawal of Libyan troops from Chad has created a vacuum from which the forces of imperialism have hastened to profit. Chadian rebels led by Hussein Habre immediately renewed military operations in the east of the country and are now poised to take N'djamena, the capital city. America's Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and Israeli, Egyptian and Sudanese advisers are training the rebel groups in bases in Sudan. Certain quarters in France also supply substantial aid to the puppet anti-Chad grouping.

At the instigation of France, backed by the United States, a six-nation African Peace-Keeping Force was set up (part of it airlifted by American transport planes) to "protect" President Goukouni Oueddei's Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT). However, this force's practical role has raised doubts about its ability to settle the Chad conflict. Zaire, one of the largest components of the Force, receives large amounts of arms and military materiel from the U.S.

It is imperialism, with the U.S. at its head, which is responsible for the dangerous development in Chad. Washington's designs include the overthrow of the present Chad government and its replacement by a puppet regime. The escalation of imperialist and Zionist interference in Chad's affairs attests to the intention of Reagan's administration and its allies to seize control over that mineral-rich part of Africa and link Chad into its ring of strategic bases around the Middle East, Africa and South Asia.



NUMEIRI AND REAGAN LEAD SUDAN INTO CRISIS

The Sudan is at present witnessing a popular uprising sweeping through all towns and provinces. Demonstrations led by school students chanted protests against the U.S., the Numeiri government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The demonstrations began peacefully with the students holding aloft banners and placards denouncing Numeiri's economic programme initiated last November.

Clashes between security forces and students occurred when police tried to disperse demonstrators by force. Police fired warning shots and lobbed tear gas at the students. One student was killed and two others seriously injured.

Later, the students at Khartoum University demonstrated on campus and occupied the buildings in solidarity with the school students. The Sudanese authorities responded by ordering the closure of all universities and higher education establishments in Khartoum and in the rest of the province.

On January 5, the unemployed and refugees joined the students and set fire to several petrol stations. Thousands of people came out onto the streets of Khartoum, Omdurman, Wad Madani and Port Sudan. At al-Suq al-Shabiya in Khartoum shops were burnt down and demonstrators set fire to Wad Madani and Kousti railway stations.

Army units have been taken out of barracks and stationed in the streets and squares of the Sudanese capital. Internal security forces have blocked all roads leading to Khartoum University. Altogether, 40 school children, 31 university students and 14 others have been arrested. The detention of nine southern Sudanese political leaders led to demonstrations in which three schoolchildren were killed at Wau in the south of the country. The British *Guardian* reported on 14 January that in Wad Madani, 115 miles south of Khartoum, at least five people were shot dead by anti-riot police and more than 20 were wounded. Since last July, the Sudanese government has cracked down mercilessly on refugees in the country, involving "identity checks" on nearly 15,000 people in and around Khartoum.

The crisis situation in Sudan is a result of the domestic and foreign policies of the Numeiri regime, its orientation towards an alliance with the forces of imperialism led by the U.S. Numeiri has turned into an exponent of U.S. policy in the region having supported the separate Camp David conspiracy and embarked on the road of opposition to the progressive forces of the Arab world and Africa.



Riots in Sudan

Although richly endowed with natural resources, Sudan is now the world's 17th-poorest country. Gross national product per capita is less than \$300 annually. Its overall foreign debt is \$3 billion. Part of this debt is at least \$450 million that Sudan owes to Western banks.

In return for granting an emergency loan of \$237 million, the IMF insisted on wide-ranging austerity measures. The Sudanese pound has been devalued by 12.5%. There was a 40% increase on oil taxes, a 10% rise in import taxes and the abolition of subsidies on cooking oil, wheat and sugar which will raise the prices of basic commodities by 62.5%.

The U.S. Commerce Department estimates Sudan's current balance of payments deficit at \$700 million per annum. The annual rate of inflation is estimated at a minimum of 50% by Western economists. Imports climbed by 25% in 1980 to \$1.7 billion while exports sagged by 3.3% to \$500 million.

Meanwhile, Sudan in 1980 received \$115 million from the U.S. Reagan wants to increase this amount to \$150 million. U.S. military aid rose from \$5 million in 1979 to a projected \$100 million for 1982 (see *The Times* November 11 1981, *International Herald Tribune*, November 30, 1981).

Drawing Sudan into the orbit of its policy, Washington pushes it along the road of militarisation. The U.S. Congress recently decided to supply Numeiri with a modern air defence system, 80 armoured personnel carriers and a squadron of F-5 combat planes worth a total of \$145 million.

This policy of militarisation runs counter to the national interests of Sudan. It does not promote the solution of the country's internal crisis; rather, it only exacerbates the problems and hinders Sudan's economic development. Such a policy leads it into a blind alley.

ARMED RESISTANCE

ISRAELI PRISON WARDEN KILLED

The Israeli Warden of Ramleh gaol was killed on December 13, 1981 as he left his house outside Tel Aviv. The gunmen, who managed to escape, shot the warden from a passing car. The warden is in charge of a detention centre in Ramallah prison, where Palestinian detainees are held in abominable conditions. The Zionist authorities arrested a large number of Palestinians following the attack.

PALESTINIAN COMMANDOS HIT ZIONIST MILITARY TARGETS IN JERUSALEM, BETAH TIKVA AND ASQALAN

The Military Spokesman of the General Command of the forces of the Palestinian Revolution in Damascus issued the following communique—

No. 63/81

A special commando group operating in occupied Palestine, at dawn on 18 December 1981 planted a timed explosive charge inside one of the departments of the Israeli Army Cooperative in the Gilo settlement in Jerusalem.

The bomb was discovered at 7:40 a.m. by a security guard. The building was immediately evacuated, and an explosives expert was called in. He detonated the charge in the place where it had been found. The blast caused serious damage to the building.

Israeli security forces meanwhile closed off the area and arrested a number of Palestinian citizens in Jerusalem on suspicion of involvement in the operation. The commando group nevertheless returned safely to base.

64/81

A group of Palestinian commandos at dawn December 30, 1981 placed a timed explosive charge in

the entrance of a building used by the Zionist enemy's intelligence services in the Yitzfat Nir area occupied Jerusalem.

The charge was discovered shortly before it was timed to explode, and it was defused by an Israeli explosives expert. Daily life came to a standstill in the area and in nearby vital installations, as Israeli police and border guards evacuated the quarter, set up roadblocks, and sent out patrols to search for other charges. Israeli security forces also arrested a large number of Palestinians in Jerusalem on suspicion of their involvement in the operation.

The commando unit nonetheless returned safely to base.

65/81

A timed incendiary charge planted shortly after midnight by Palestinian commandos of Special Unit "B" exploded at dawn on December 30 beneath a vehicle belonging to a member of the enemy police. The car was parked in the Talbiyeh area of Jerusalem.

The car went up in flames as a result of the explosion and was completely destroyed.

The commandos all returned safely to base.

1/82

On January 11, 1982, one of our



combat units operating inside the occupied homeland broke through the Zionist security network and planted several timed explosive charges in an army supply centre in the Petah Tikva central market. The unit then moved successfully out of the area.

The first charge exploded at 7:40 am inflicting several casualties in enemy ranks and causing considerable material damage to military vehicles parked in the market.

Israeli security forces then searched the area and discovered a booby-trapped bomb which an Israeli explosives expert attempted to defuse. At 7.55 am, the bomb exploded in his hands, wounding him seriously and injuring several border guards standing nearby.

The security forces proceeded to encircle the area and carried out an extensive search, arresting dozens of Palestinian citizens on charges of involvement in the operation.

2/82

A timed explosive charge planted by Palestinian commandos from special unit "D" went off at dawn on January 11, beneath a vehicle belonging to an Israeli security officer. The car was parked in front of the officer's house in Asqalan.

The explosion, which was timed for 7: am, destroyed the vehicle and damaged the windows and entrances of the nearby buildings.

RAKAH WARNS OF ISRAELI WAR AGAINST PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION AND SYRIA

In a report published in the Haifa newspaper *al-Ittihad* on January 12, the Rakah Politburo disclosed that Begin's government wishes to exploit the remaining months preceding the complete withdrawal from Sinai to embark on new military and political strategies.

The report said that the annexation of the Golan Heights was a provocative measure aimed at intensifying regional tensions. It referred to the declarations of the Israeli Chief of Staff who said early in January that any future war should be the last one.

Rakah interpreted these declarations as implying the liquidation of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and the occupation of Lebanon.

While preparations for war continue, the traitor Saad Haddad is increasing his provocative actions in south Lebanon in order to give Israel a pretext to launch a new war, the report said.

Rakah said that the purpose of this war would be to exterminate the Palestinian Arab people, partition Lebanon, and annex part of it to Israel.

"The Likud government also hopes", Rakah added, "that as a result of this war they can annex the occupied Palestinian West Bank and Gaza Strip. Consequently, the rights of the Palestinian people would be lost and the American schemes to establish strategic military alliances in the area to combat national liberation movements in the Middle East, the Arabian Gulf, and Africa would be realised."

The Politburo warned that such adventurism would have disastrous results for the people of the region, and would pose a grave threat to world peace.

WEST BANK MAYORS ANSWER CALLS FOR UNILATERAL RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL

On January 25, the Palestinian mayors of Nablus and Ramallah in the occupied West Bank, Bassam Shaka'a and Karim Khalaf, issued important statements answering some recent calls for an unconditional recognition of Israel as it exists at present, by the PLO. The two mayors, democratically elected and expressing the stand of their people in the occupied

territories, are constantly harassed by the military occupation, and in June 1980 became the targets of Israeli bomb attacks on their lives, in which Bassam Shaka'a lost both his legs.

Now, the Mayor of Nablus has again made it clear: "It is Israel which must recognise the PLO as the representative of all the Palestinians. The danger that Israel may take our land does not justify such a declaration — of unilateral recognition of Israel — for it is our struggle alone which will reverse the aggressive policy of Israel."

Karim Khalaf, the Ramallah Mayor, seconded this by asking: "Who are they that refuse to recognise the rights of the Palestinians and their leadership? Who occupies the territory of the Palestinians, confiscates their land and usurps their homeland? Ought we to recognise the thief and the usurper?" — He added that it was for Israel to recognise the Palestinians and their leadership.

REPORTS ON GROWING REPRESSION IN ISRAELI GAOLS

The Israeli Communist Party daily *al-Ittihad* recently published a report on the survey of the situation inside Israeli prisons in which Palestinian political prisoners are held and tortured. The paper said that there was a growing concern about the conditions of the Palestinians in the prisons of Nafha, Bir al-Sabe and Asqalan. The prisoners in Nafha, for example, announced a hunger strike on January 17, 1982, but nothing has emerged about the progress of the strike, due to the repressive Israeli security.

Al-Ittihad said that the progressive Israeli lawyer Lea Tsemel had been refused permission to meet with prisoners in Nafha, and was told that she did not have previous permission. However, such meetings do not normally require permits.

In Asqalan prison, Palestinians have not been allowed to meet their relatives as a punishment for their strike which took place around one month ago. The hunger strike was in protest at their intolerable living conditions. Nothing is known about the present condition, of the prisoners. According to prisoners' relatives, there was recently an increase in torture and oppression of prisoners by the prison authorities, which explains the tight security now being imposed.

U.N. COMMITTEE CONDEMNS ISRAELI CANAL PROJECT

The right of the Arab states and peoples to effective and permanent sovereignty and control over their natural and other resources has been reaffirmed once again in a resolution which was adopted by the U.N. General Assembly's Second Committee on November 9. The actions being undertaken by Israel with a view to exploiting manpower, natural resources and Arab lands are described in the document as illegal. The resolution contains the demand that Israel should immediately put an end to such activities. The resolution denounces the refusal of the Tel Aviv authorities to grant a possibility for international experts to visit the occupied lands.

105 delegations voted for the resolution, while two delegations were against — the United States and Israel.

Meanwhile, the Special Political Committee of the 36th U.N. General Assembly condemned by an overwhelming majority Israel's plan to build a canal through occupied Arab territories. The canal, joining the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea, is to run through the Gaza Strip.

In a resolution, the Committee urges Israel to stop work on the canal and calls on the Security Council to take measures against the project. It appeals to all states neither directly nor indirectly to help prepare or realize Israel's objective.

TULKAREM MAYOR MEETS WITH BRITISH CONSUL

On January 13, Tulkarem Mayor Hilmi Hannoun received the British Consul in Jerusalem at his municipality office. They discussed regional issues and particularly the situation in the West Bank in view of the heightening Israeli repression of the Palestinian people there, and suspect activities such as the formation of the quisling 'village leagues'.

In response to the Consul's questions Hannoun explained that the

Israeli authorities are using every means at their disposal to establish these leagues in order to consecrate the occupation through finding a substitute for the Palestinian patriotic forces in the West Bank. This substitute leadership is supposed to participate in the autonomy conspiracy, Hannoun added.

The Mayor also confirmed that the Palestinian people must be granted the right to self-determination.

Hannoun then related the sorry events which recently took place at al-Najah University in Nablus, explaining to the British Consul that these events are totally opposed by all Palestinian citizens and are harmful to the national interest.

'GREEN PATROLS' MOVE AGAINST GALILEE PALESTINIANS

In mid-January the 'Green Patrols', affiliated to the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture, and an Israeli border guards force evicted three Palestinian families from the village of 'Arab al-Hujeirat in Galilee and seized their livestock. They claimed that the land inhabited by the families belongs to the Israeli land department.

The Green Patrols, formed by Ariel Sharon when he held the Agriculture portfolio, have in the past few months transferred their operations to Galilee. They began a large-scale campaign against the Bedouin tribes which included seizure of their livestock.

ZIONIST SETTLERS UPROOT OLIVE TREES IN QALQILYA

Progressive Israeli attorney Felicia Langer presented a petition to the Israeli Supreme Court on January 6, asking it to issue an injunction against the Military Governor of the Tulkarem area for providing protection to armed sett-

lers who have been uprooting olive trees belonging to the Qalqilya municipality.

Ms. Langer said that the settlers and cut down the trees under the protection of Israeli border guards. The settlers intend to establish a de facto colony on the site of the Palestinian olive grove.

ISRAELI PRISON HEAD ADMITS DEPLORABLE STATE OF JAILS

The head of the Israeli prison authorities, Ford Hymer, recently admitted that the majority of Israeli jails are over-crowded, extremely humid and unhealthy.

Hymer cited the Damoun prison, on Mount Carmel, as an example. The prison was originally a tobacco warehouse which the occupation authorities used as a prison without making any alterations or modifications. The number of prisoners in Damoun, he said, reaches 400, with more than ten of them in each cell. Many of the prisoners sleep on the floor for lack of bedding.

Hymer also mentioned that the number of Palestinian detainees, including commandos, is now around 2,800, about 45% of the total number of prisoners in Israeli jails, which is 6,000. He said that the Palestinian detainees always demand to continue their studies while in prison, contrary to the common criminals.

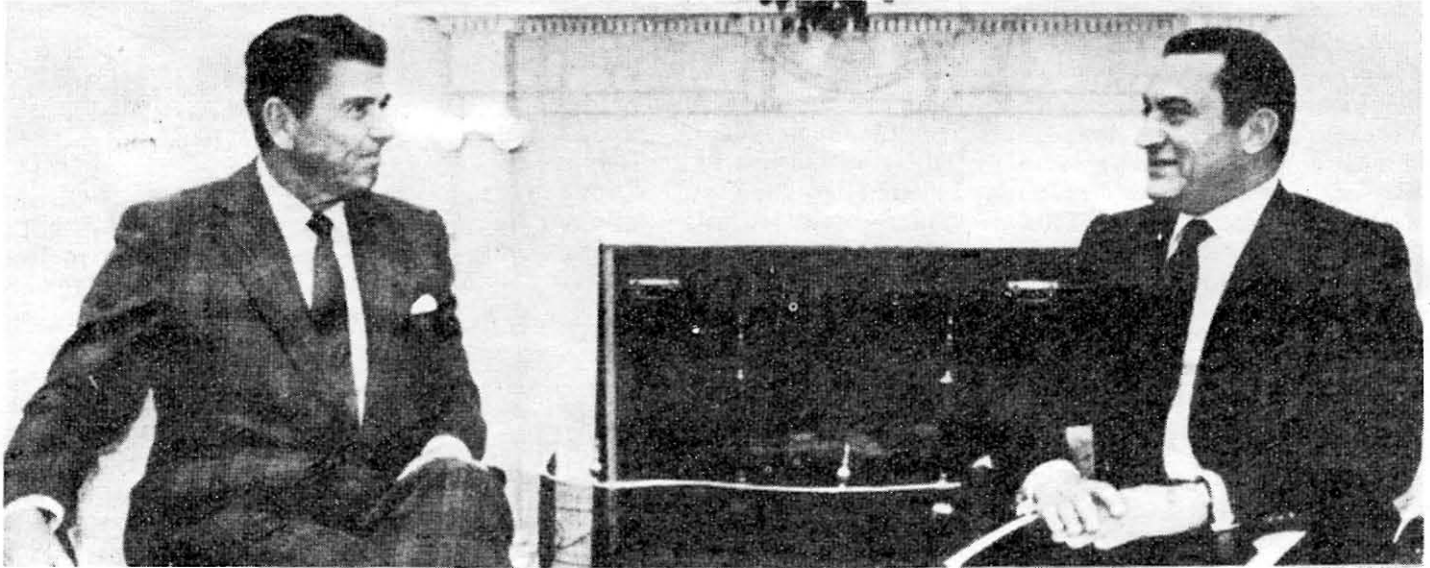
Hymer added that the occupation authorities plan to establish new prisons in the next two years, which would absorb around 1,250 more prisoners. He finally admitted the failure of the occupation authorities to force the Palestinian detainees to do any work inside the jail, which they consider would support the Israeli economy.

Egypt after Sadat:

ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND U.S. HEGEMONY

date, because if President Mubarak chose such a course, he would throw away the one positive aspect of Camp David, while many of the negative aspects would remain. To deny Egypt the one advantage of regaining Sinai, after all the humiliating concessions Sadat has made in its name, could expose an Egyptian ruler to the accusation of irresponsibility.

This argument has some logic in its favour, although it ignores the American-sponsored "multinational peacekeeping force" which will take up



Reagan meets Mubarak in Washington before Sadat's death.

by Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Following the death of Egypt's dictator Anwar Sadat, which was un lamented except in Israeli and Western imperialist circles, the Egyptian people adopted a "wait and see" attitude towards Egypt's new ruler, Husni Mubarak. He did not come to power through a democratic process but through a rigged "referendum" of the type for which Sadat had become notorious, a farcical process in which the ruler invariably declares himself to have received over 99% of the votes.

Nevertheless, despite this rather unpromising start, the Egyptian people have decided to give their new President a chance to prove himself and suspend their judgement of him until the effects of his policies become clearly apparent. Since the Egyptians are the people most immediately affected, it is understandable that many other quarters, including most Arab governments, have also decided to wait and see.

What After April 1982?

One point that many of these quarters have made is that Husni Mubarak does not have many options open to him before April 1982, when the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Sinai is scheduled to be completed. The option of scrapping the Camp David agreements, it is argued, is not practical before that

positions in Sinai when the Israelis withdraw. The practical effect of this will be that, instead of being occupied by the Israelis, Sinai will be under the occupation of several Western imperialist powers, led by the United States. It is doubtful whether this represents a gain for the Egyptian people, or whether it will give President Mubarak an option of reversing his Camp David policy after April 1982, as some people fondly hope.

Many quarters have posed the question of whether Israeli Prime Minister Begin will, for once, honour his word and in fact complete the withdrawal from Sinai according to the Camp David formula. Certainly, the Zionists would be very pleased to find an excuse for remaining in as much of Sinai as possible, and Husni Mubarak has been very careful not to give them such an excuse.

The agitation by Zionist settlers in Sinai about the amount of compensation they should receive if they leave, and even their threats to use violence, in fact strengthen Begin's hand. For if the Israeli withdrawal is completed, he will be able to portray himself in a more honourable light as "a leader who kept his word even in the face of fierce opposition". He will thus try to claim that he was doing the Egyptian government a great favour by withdrawing from its territory.

While accepting that it is still early to pass a final verdict on the policies of Egypt's new President, since he has only had about three months in power, it is nevertheless permissible to look at the policies he has followed so far during those three months, as these may contain indications of how he will act in future.

Cosmetic Changes

It is possible to say that his policies so far do not look identical to those of Sadat, in that he has introduced some changes, which fall under three headings. First, the Egyptian news media have been ordered to stop the vitriolic attacks against other Arab countries which were a hallmark of Sadat's rule. Secondly, some of those people detained without trial by Sadat for political reasons, including a number of influential critics of his regime, have been released. Thirdly, Husni Mubarak's regime has made it known that it will discourage some of the more flagrant aspects of Sadat's "open-door" economic policy, including the ostentatious flaunting of wealth by the privileged few, which aroused the resentment of the vast majority of Egyptians who live in poverty.

All of these changes are cosmetic in nature and have not altered the essential principles on which the Sadat regime was based. These are adherence to the Camp David formula and alliance with Israel, the alignment with U.S. imperialism, the adoption of capitalism and undermining of the socialist reforms introduced by the late President Nasser and, last but not least, the denial of democratic rights and establishment of a personal dictatorship. Until some or all of these fundamental aspects of Sadat's rule are abandoned, it will not be possible to say that any real change has occurred in Egypt.

The Background to Husni Mubarak's Accession

On assuming office, President Mubarak declared that he was fully informed in advance of all Sadat's moves to reach a separate agreement with Israel, and that he gave them his total support. He has also stressed on a number of occasions that he will continue the general course charted by his predecessor.

The circumstances of Husni Mubarak's accession contained indications of the degree of confidence the U.S. rulers placed in him. Reliable Western diplomatic sources said that, after Sadat's death, the U.S. government sent a large number of C.I.A. operatives to Egypt to help the Egyptian *Mukhabarat* (secret police) to suppress any form of opposition to the regime. Not that this should cause the Egyptian opposition undue worry, judging from past C.I.A. performance. In late September 1981, C.I.A. and *Mukhabarat* operatives uncovered a plot to assassinate Sadat, and, satisfied with their brilliant achievement, assured him that he would be quite safe at his military parade on October 6, 1981. They overlooked the possibility of a second plot which they had not

uncovered, and which in fact was successful in assassinating him on that date.

Furthermore, the Reagan administration sent its Secretary of State Alexander Haig to Egypt shortly after Sadat's death, ostensibly to attend the funeral. The real reason for his visit, according to Western diplomats, was to ensure the smooth succession to Husni Mubarak and foil any attempts to install someone else in the Egyptian Presidency. The Americans appear to have feared the possibility of a palace coup within the regime.

While in Egypt, Haig held discussions with both Husni Mubarak and Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiry on the planned "Bright Star" manoeuvres and an emergency plan to transport Egyptian troops and U.S. military advisers to Sudan on American aircraft if the need arose.

The Significance of the "Bright Star" Manoeuvres

The manoeuvres carried out shortly after Sadat's death by U.S. forces in Egypt, Sudan, Somalia and Oman under the code name of "Bright Star" have had extremely important results. This is the opinion of American military observers in Sinai, according to reliable information reaching *Palestine*. These manoeuvres, particularly the operations of the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force in landing and capturing and holding positions of a potential enemy in desert terrain, as well as the non-stop flight of B-52 bombers from the U.S.A. to Egypt for precision bombing of targets there and the use of AWACS surveillance aircraft, were all regarded as highly successful by American military specialists.

Most significantly, the analysis of these manoeuvres will be used as a basis for planning possible options of U.S. military intervention in Gulf countries. Some Gulf diplomats express concern that Saudi Arabia would be a prime target for this sort of action if the situation there develops in a way the U.S. rulers consider dangerous to their interests. Planning for the eventuality of a U.S. invasion in the Gulf is already being prepared on the basis of the "Bright Star" results, not only by the U.S. military authorities but also by C.I.A. headquarters. In an attempt to justify the need for such plans, the Pentagon quotes the example of the situation in Iran, when the United States could not make any effort, particularly in the military field, to control the situation before the Shah fell. To make the argument even more persuasive for other branches of the Reagan administration, the Pentagon also raises the spectre of an alleged "Soviet military invasion" in areas of vital U.S. interests, namely the oil states.

Thus, if the U.S. rulers consider a situation dangerous, the Pentagon argues that they must be prepared to make a preemptive strike and to occupy those territories of vital interest to them. The choice of the territories of Egypt, Sudan, Somalia and Oman



was considered necessary in order to train the troops in the very territories where there is a real possibility that military actions may take place, so that American forces would be fully prepared and aware of the situation and terrain in these countries. The U.S. administration, particularly since President Reagan came to power, has agreed to prepare these plans, particularly for ready preemptive measures in the event of the U.S. rulers considering that the situation has become dangerous to them, without consulting any other state, even those allied to them in Europe or the Arab World, on the pretext that this is the best way to preserve secrecy.



Shops were looted by police in Asyut following October riots.

C.I.A. Threat Even to America's Allies

The most sinister aspect of all this, as far as Arab regimes friendly to the United States are concerned, is the role of the C.I.A. in planning these operations. While the "Bright Star" manoeuvres were held in countries whose regimes are unstable now or likely to become so in the foreseeable future, to prepare for military operations to help these regimes keep in power in periods of internal instability, the participation of the C.I.A. in planning on the basis of the results of "Bright Star" implies also an alternative to this. If the U.S. rulers consider that it is no longer in their interests to keep one of these regimes in power, they will replace it with another regime that is a more convenient puppet. One has only to recall the example of the former King of Greece, or the even more gruesome example of Ngo Dinh Diem in the southern part of Vietnam, to see that the U.S. rulers are quite prepared to sacrifice even their most loyal puppets if it suits their interests.



U.S. troops in Egypt looking for military bases in the Middle East.

The American plans being prepared, according to well-informed military experts, include covert C.I.A. operations before and during an American invasion in the Gulf, particularly if the decision is taken to change any of the regimes there in order to ensure the pro-Western character of their rulers. This would be done when U.S. policymakers consider that these regimes are not stable enough to protect U.S. interests, or if they do not toe the line sufficiently and try to adopt an independent policy.

In such an eventuality, the C.I.A. would work to overthrow the regime concerned and replace it with a regime that serves U.S. interests but poses as a bourgeois democracy or an Islamic democracy. The ruling apparatus in the United States, specifically the C.I.A. and the State Department's intelligence analytical and research unit, is at present conducting an intensive study of the history, laws and practice of Islam in order to distort it to serve American interests. So far, the Reagan administration feels, the U.S. leadership's ignorance of Islam has placed it in a weak position, and it now wishes to use a distorted form of Islam to fight real Islamic revolutionary forces.

The above facts enable us to place the Mubarak regime in Egypt in a clearer perspective. So far, it has maintained the broad lines of Sadat's policies, introducing only minor changes. In particular, it was host to the first phase of the "Bright Star" manoeuvres and has continued to collaborate with U.S. imperialism. It can be argued that at present it has no choice until the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai is completed, although the corollary to this, namely that Husni Mubarak will change his policies afterwards, seems rather feeble.

In other words, once the Israelis have left Sinai and it has been occupied by the U.S.-sponsored multinational imperialist force, will he dare, or be in a position, to put his loyalty to Islam and the Arab nation first, to cut his regime's links with the enemies of Islam and the Arab nation, notably the U.S. rulers, and become a patriot? Time will tell, but he will need a miracle if he is to do this successfully. Miracles, as I have said, are rare.

80,000 Gaza Palestinians Refuse to Become Pawns in Egyptian-Israeli Sinai Withdrawal Plan

On January 18, Zionist War Minister Ariel Sharon was in Cairo for 3 days of meetings with Egyptian officials to settle the final details of the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai which, under the Camp David agreements, is supposed to occur before April 25. After the meetings, Sharon stated in a press conference that most outstanding questions "had been resolved." However, one question was left unresolved and it is the question that the American-sponsored Camp David process is incapable of solving — the Palestinian question.

The particular issue facing Egyptian and Israeli negotiators is the 80,000 Palestinians living in Rafah in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip. A sticky technicality in the withdrawal scheme is the fact that a portion of the city limits of Rafah is within the borders of Egyptian Sinai and the rest of the city is within the borders of the Gaza Strip. The American-modelled Camp David scheme originally envisaged a settlement of the Palestinian "autonomy" issue before the April 1982 deadline for the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai. But years of American manoeuvring with the Camp David framework have been futile in producing even one Palestinian quisling who could look like a credible alternative to the PLO. Now U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig has decided to join the fray in attempting to liquidate the lingering Palestinian question, at least in its immediate manifestation — the 80,000 Palestinians in Rafah who stand in the way of a clean execution of the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai.

Sharon sees the Rafah issue as an unexpected opportunity in dealing with one of the historical failures of Zionism — how to rid the land of Palestine of its native population. In his discussions with Mubarak on the Sinai withdrawal, Sharon reportedly proposed that Rafah remain unified and revert to Egyptian control after the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai. The Palestinian population in the occupied Gaza Strip numbers about 500,000. For Sharon, giving Rafah to the Egyptians would mean that the densely populated Gaza Strip would have its Palestinian population reduced in one fell swoop by almost 20%. The prospect of suddenly acquiring a militant Palestinian population, many of whom would now be displaced for the third time in 33 years, is not very enticing for the Mubarak regime. But Sharon offered other contingencies. If the Egyptian regime refused to accept all 80,000 Rafah



Sharon and Hassan Ali after their agreement on Sinai

Palestinians, maybe at least 12,000 living on the Sinai side of Rafah could be thrown over into the Egyptian desert. Sharon then proposed that the Gaza side of Rafah would be totally fenced-in like a concentration camp to protect Israeli "security."

Throughout the history of the Camp David process both the American and Egyptian negotiators have continually capitulated to Israeli unilateral measures which fall outside of the accords. The case of the Sinai withdrawal is no exception. In the recent Sharon-Mubarak meetings in Cairo, the Egyptian side once again compromised issues of Egyptian sovereignty and agreed to allow Israeli installations to remain in Sinai after the April 25 withdrawal deadline. Likewise Sharon has spearheaded a drive in Gaza unilaterally to implement Zionist designs on the area. In the second week of January just before Sharon's visit, Rafah was put under curfew while Israeli soldiers began rounding up dozens of Bedouin families who live in the area. *Agence France Presse* reported on January 12 that when the Bedouin left their encampments during the day, Israeli army troops would move in with bulldozers to destroy their homes and agricultural plots. Israeli bulldozers are also poised to destroy Palestinian homes in Rafah itself in the event that it becomes opportune to erect the planned "security" wall around the city. Israeli

GAZA UPRISING

All Sharon's dreams for liquidating the Palestinian question in Gaza are not going as smoothly as planned. Sharon once thought he had "pacified" Gaza in the early 1970s after the Israeli army swept through the area bulldozing hundreds of Palestinian homes in the refugee camps and imprisoning hundreds of young Palestinians suspected of being fighters in the Palestinian Revolution. Sharon's dreams have turned into a nightmare which has come back to haunt him ten years later.

On December 1, 1981 Sharon transformed General Yosef Luntz from the military governor of Gaza into a civilian administrator as part of a scheme to install permanent Israeli occupation of the Gaza Strip. The next day the whole of Gaza shut down in a general strike. The Israeli army ran rampant throughout Gaza to try and quell the Palestinian resistance. Palestinian shops which had closed for the strike were welded shut by soldiers only to be opened again by Palestinian shop owners using electric saws. Students mounted widespread demonstrations and threw up barricades of burning tires to block the entrance of Israeli military vehicles into the towns and refugee camps.

Not coincidentally, some of the fiercest clashes took place in Rafah. On December 7, Israeli soldiers randomly opened fire on Palestinian demonstrators and shot dead a 17-year-old Palestinian youth. Three other teenagers were wounded. Another massive demonstration occurred at the funeral the next day and Rafah was placed under a military curfew. The demonstrations in Rafah were not crushed by the murder. After the curfew was lifted in late December, demonstrations against the occupation broke out once again. Rafah was again placed under curfew on January 3 for more than a week.

Israeli and Egyptian negotiations on Palestinian "autonomy" are expected to continue with U.S. Secretary of State Haig "injecting new ideas." But the Palestinians in Gaza have already forcefully stated their view of the whole Camp David process in the uprising in December. The Palestinians in Gaza have likewise rejected the current U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli manoeuvring over the fate of the Palestinians in Rafah. On January 19, Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, a member of the National Guidance Committee and the President of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society in Gaza stated: "I am hostile in principle to any exchange of territories, and I believe, in the present case, that no Palestinian would accept today a change of nationality." The Palestinians of Rafah have reiterated this view with continuing demonstrations. They refuse to become pawns in the Camp David Sinai withdrawal plan or in any other plan that denies them their national rights.

military "experts" have carried out surveys while Rafah has been under curfew in order to mark off which Palestinian homes they will demolish.

The international media have all but ignored the plight of the Palestinians in Rafah. This has not been the case for the several hundred Jewish settler families still remaining in Sinai. Their evacuation from occupied land is portrayed daily as a tragic dilemma for the Begin government. In reality the evacuation of the settlers is anything but tragic. It is big business. On January 6, the Begin cabinet decided to give the remaining Sinai settlers some \$270 million in compensation. Some of the fanatical Gush Emunim settlers will become millionaires almost over night. Some of the settlers are slated to receive as much as \$500,000 each. The London *Sunday Times* of January 10 contrasted this to what Bedouin in the Negev are being offered for destruction of their homes to make way for three new airbases being constructed since the signing of Camp David: "There, families with solid, 80-square metre homes, cultivating five acres of fertile land and 100 fruit trees are getting only about £2,500 for the lot. They are then expected to pay £1,820 for a half-acre plot elsewhere on which to build a new house at their own expense."

The Mubarak regime was also eager to add to the compensation payments for Israeli withdrawal. After the Sharon-Mubarak meetings, the London *Guardian* reported on January 19: "Egypt also undertook to buy infrastructure Israel will leave behind in southern Sinai for about \$60 million, and to open a road for lorries carrying goods between the two countries through central Sinai, crossing the Suez Canal by tunnel near Ismalia."

The most sinister result of this huge financial deal is part of the Zionist design to annex the West Bank and Gaza. The 5,000 settlers leaving Sinai newly enriched will become the human and capital resource for further settlement in the occupied Gaza and West Bank. The \$270 million compensation is actually a financial injection to West Bank and Gaza settlement expansion which will be used in real estate speculation and will send the price of land in the remaining occupied territories skyrocketing. *Ha'aretz* reported on January 12 that already a tenth of a hectare of land in the West Bank is selling for 3,000 or 4,000 dollars. The current militaristic antics of the Gush Emunim settlers in Yamit in Sinai will next be unleashed against Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza.

ISRAELI SECRET SERVICE OPERATIONS IN AFRICA, ASIA, AMERICA, EUROPE

The Zionist state of Israel, encouraged and helped by Washington, has become a centre for international terrorism, wrote the Soviet army journal *Krasnaya Zvezda* on January 19, 1982. The facts prove, says the paper, that the activity of Israel's secret services, directed towards the realisation of the reactionary aims of international Zionism, pose a grave danger for the people of the entire world.

Exposing the activities of the Israeli special services, *Krasnaya Zvezda* wrote that their activities are not limited to the Middle East region, but are far more extensive. The principal line of the spying and subversive activities of the Israeli special services is that they are seeking support from all sorts of "fifth columns" of Zionism in many countries; these include the political, as well as cultural and other, Jewish-Zionist organisations.

The *Histadrut* central union has become the hideout of the Israeli intelligence services, continues the journal. For instance, over half of the "Histadrut advisers" recently in Uganda were professional spies. Other Israeli spies, posing as "trade union activists", have recently been unmasked in Chad, Congo, Niger, and Mali. The Israeli special services, together with the CIA have directly participated in subversive actions in Nigeria, Angola, Ethiopia, and numerous other countries, aiming to undermine the anti-imperialist line of the young states on the road of development on the African continent and to incite them to help Zionism.

After their failure in Africa, *Krasnaya Zvezda* adds, the Israeli spies, with *Histadrut* as a go-between, have tried to enlarge their theatre of operations in Asia. They have directed their efforts towards Thailand, Hongkong, South Korea, Nepal and Burma. Representatives of *Histadrut* have also been sent in large numbers over the Atlantic, where they are engaged in political, military and economic espionage in Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil and Honduras.

All foreign embassies of Tel Aviv and the offices of the "Jewish Agency", the semi-official organisation of the Zionists and affiliated to the "World Zionist Organisation", which has its centre in New York and a special intelligence section, are saturated with Israeli agents.

Supported by terrorist pro-fascist gangs of the same type as the "Jewish Defence League", the agents of *Agaf Modi'in* and *Mossad* commit acts of aggression against progressive Arab and Jewish activists in the United States, Great Britain, France, Australia and in many other countries, the journal states. Numerous official representatives of the PLO have been killed by the Zionist terrorists. Representatives and citizens of the USSR in the USA have become the target of the Zionist aggressors.

ARIEL SHARON ON TERRORISM: "I KNOW HOW TO DO THIS"

"We must hit everywhere: in the country, in the Arab states and overseas. I know how to do this. I have already had practical experience. It can be done. In this matter, I have already seen hopeless situations that have found a solution. We must strike continuously and everywhere and not merely in retaliation. If we know they are in a given Arab country, or even in Europe, we must strike in spite of all the difficulties. There is no need of a large-scale war. Suddenly, someone disappears here, someone is found dead there, someone is found stabbed to death in a European night-club. We need to find the right methods. Such operations should be carried out continuously."

Major-General Ariel Sharon, today
Israeli "defence" minister,
(*Yediot Aharonot*, May 26, 1974)

EYTAN GLOATS OVER BLOODBATH IN IRAQ-IRAN WAR

In his interview with *Yediot Aharonot* of January 8, the Israeli Chief of Staff, General Eytan, went out of his way to express the perverse Israeli happiness over bloodshed occurring in the Arab world and the Middle East in general, exposing also the active interest Israel is taking in such massacres. Commenting on the bloody war being fought by Iraq and Iran now for over one year which is costing thousands of human lives, Eytan declared: "It is a veritable pleasure to state the obstinacy with which these two countries are destroying each other...."

U.S.-ISRAELI
AGGRESSIVE PLANS
EXTEND TO AFRICA

Quoting Western press reports, the Soviet news agency TASS stated on January 5, 1982, that the "strategic cooperation" agreement signed between the United States and Israel also extends to Africa.

The French weekly *Le Point* revealed that military cooperation between Tel Aviv, Pretoria and some African regimes, within the framework of that agreement, was studied during the recent tour of a number of African states, including the Republic of South Africa, by Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon.

According to the *New York Times*, Israeli-South African military contacts have been raised to a qualitatively new level as a result of the visit by Israel's high ranking emissary. While in the Republic of South Africa, Sharon more than once expressed the intentions of his government to increase arms deliveries to the Pretoria regime sharply and to "coordinate major military-political actions" in that region with it. The *New York Times* acknowledges that Tel Aviv's position meets with full understanding on the part of the leadership of the United States and other NATO countries.

At present, the Republic of South Africa accounts for over 70 percent of the exports of Tel Aviv's munitions industry. Pretoria buys from Israeli corporations missile launchers, aircraft, anti-aircraft facilities, electronic equipment and other military hardware. An agreement has been concluded between the two countries on the manufacture of Lavi fighter bombers under Israeli licences in South Africa, which are to become the main combat plane of the air force of the South African racists. The Western press points out that the number of Israeli mercenaries, operating in South Africa and Namibia, has been markedly increased in recent years. According to the South West Africa People's Organisation, special armed Israeli detachments take part in punitive operations against the Namibian people with the racist army.

The strengthening of nuclear cooperation between Tel-Aviv and Pretoria, effected with the United States acting as go-between, is arousing particular anxiety in the world, above all in Africa and the Middle East. In exchange for

supplies of nuclear technology, Israel receives dressed uranium from South Africa. According to some information, a nuclear submarine is being built at the naval base in Simonstown with the participation of Israeli specialists.

NEGATIVE DEMOGRAPHIC
DEVELOPMENT OF THE
"JEWISH" STATE

The West German *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* on December 20, 1981, published the latest official figures on the demographic development of the Israeli "Jewish" state. According to the report from the paper's Haifa correspondent, Israel has reached a population figure of 3.97 million, 653,000 of whom are Arab Palestinians (this does not include the Arab population in the territories occupied by Israel in 1967, where according to U.N. estimates about 1.2 million Palestinians are living). The population in Israel has grown by only 1.8% compared to 2.3% in 1980. According to the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, the comparatively small increase has to be explained by the unprecedentedly small immigration figures during the last 12 months. The latter reached only 13,300 and thus has decreased by nearly 50% from the year before. This immigration figure, the smallest in ten years, will not be without repercussions for the economic development of the country; for immigration has brought and still brings capital, manpower and know-how with it. During the last ten years immigration has decreased steadily, a development considered to be dangerous in Israel. The government, and also the broad public, are quite aware of this problem.

JEWISH EMIGRATION
FROM USSR SHRINKING

Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union last year was at its lowest level since the programme started in 1971. Statistics released by the Geneva-based Intergovernmental Committee for Migration and published by *Associated Press* on January 7, also showed that now fewer than one-fifth of Soviet Jewish emigrants plan to settle in Israel. Last year's total of 9,460 arrivals at the Austrian transit camp — first stop for all Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union — compared with 21,470 in 1980 and a 10-year-high of 51,300 in 1979.

ZIONISM AND AFRICA

By Gora Ebrahim

Gora Ebrahim is a member of the ANC Central Committee.

President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire is reported (*International Herald Tribune* 4-12-81) to have said that his government was prepared to review diplomatic relations with Israel. He claimed in the report that Zaire "broke ties with Israel in 1973 in a show of support for Egypt and its lost territories," but now that the last of occupied Egyptian territory is scheduled to be returned in April 1982, the resumption of relations would not be a "difficult problem." However, whilst saying all this President Mobutu made an important proviso, namely that Zaire "will take no action (to restore diplomatic relations) until other Black African nations take a stand."

The fact that President Mobutu was specifically asked about this question and the report that the Zionist Defence Minister Sharon recently made a secret visit to some African countries, is an indication that the Zionists are desperately trying to make a political comeback in Africa and would employ everything at their disposal to ensure the success of this campaign. This is no longer a secret.

In this stepped-up "comeback" campaign the Zionists are employing a three-pronged attack. The first line of attack is through the United States. The Zionists have openly asked the Reagan Administration to "use its influence" in certain African countries to pressurise them into reestablishing diplomatic relations with Israel. This pressure, needless to say is being exerted.

Secondly, the Zionists are pressing the newly incumbent socialist government in France to use its influence in the former colonies in Africa. Since the new socialist government in France has pro-Zionist leanings, there can be no doubt that it will "talk" to some of the pro-French African States.

Thirdly, the Zionists are making direct contacts with some African states with exaggerated promises of financial and military assistance.


The immediate question that comes to mind is whether this campaign has any chance of succeeding?

The fact that President Mobutu went out of his way to make it clear that any resumption of diplomatic relations would have to be a collective African decision, from the very outset sounds the death-knell of the Zionist campaign.

Although President Mobutu claims that he broke ties with Israel in 1973 to "show support for Egypt and its lost territories", the collective African decision to first condemn, and then call for the severance of diplomatic and economic relations was not based on showing support for Egypt alone. It was more comprehensive and based on fundamental principles.

It will be recalled that the Organisation of African Unity's (O.A.U.) first direct involvement in the Arab-Zionist conflict was when it set up a committee at its 1970 Summit to try and find a peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis. The chairman of this committee was the former President of Senegal, Leopold Senghor. The committee, comprising several African Presidents, visited the Frontline Arab States and occupied Palestine. The conclusion this committee came to, and this is stated in its report, was that the Zionists did not appear willing to vacate the territories occupied in the 1967 Arab-Zionist war. This continued occupation and obvious expansionist tendency, the committee felt, would constitute a dangerous precedent if gone unchallenged. In this the Committee members were not only reiterating universally accepted norms and principles, but also the very real danger posed by the South African racists. In the name of so-called "secure borders" nothing would prevent the racists from militarily occupying neighbouring territories. The 1973 war, however, was the last straw which broke the camels back!

The fact that the Senghor — led Committee visited other countries besides Egypt is proof enough that



from the outset the O.A.U. did not intend to confine its support only to Egypt *but to the very core of the Middle East conflict, namely the question of Palestine*. That is why several African countries which severed ties with Israel following the 1967 war granted political recognition to the Palestine Liberation Organisation, as the sole legitimate representative of the dispossessed Palestinian people.

Today the PLO enjoys observer status at O.A.U. meetings and the granting of this status to the PLO signifies support to the just cause of the Palestinian people.

The O.A.U., therefore, has consistently viewed the Middle East conflict in its entirety and *has never confined its support only to Egypt*. There exists no O.A.U. document propounding this narrow sectarian view.

Moreover, there is a growing awareness among O.A.U. members of the close military, nuclear, political, economic, cultural and sporting links between racist South Africa and Zionist Israel. This is amply reflected in the various O.A.U. resolutions. These resolutions, therefore, show that besides the O.A.U.'s concern over the Middle East crisis, the O.A.U. is equally, if not more, concerned about the ever-growing nuclear, military and economic ties between these two racist entities.

In April 1976 John Vorster, the then racist Prime Minister of South Africa made a four-day visit to Israel. At a press conference in Jerusalem on April 12, Vorster announced the signing of an "Israeli-South African" agreement on "economic cooperation". Although they tried to deny that the agreement included military cooperation, the fact that South Africa's Defence Minister was to be a member of the ministerial joint committee set-up under the agreement, and that Vorster was allowed to tour "strategic" areas in Israel, including the naval base at Sharm-el-Sheikh where he boarded a Zionist made Reshef warship equipped with Gabriel sea-to-sea missiles, as well as the aircraft factory where the Kfir jet was being built, confirms the crucial military alliance concluded between the two racist entities. Moreover, it is an open secret that South Africa is building Reshef class warships under licence and that the Zionists are equipping them with Gabriel missiles.

The Zionist-racist agreement of 1976 was based on the exchange of Zionism arms and knowhow for South African strategic materials in three clearly defined areas: conventional arms trade, nuclear collaboration and the sharing of Zionist "quick strike experience in the field."

According to a press report Zionist military industries had over US \$150 million in South African orders, including missiles, gunboats and fighter jets. Details on the sale to South Africa of 6 Reshef gunboats armed with Gabriel missiles, and the building of 6 Dabur coastal patrol boats in Durban, under licence from Israel were also confirmed.

Moreover, three Zionist companies — Tadiran, Elyit and I.A.I. — have been selling to South Africa equipment for the electronic "wall" namely electronic fences, anti-guerrilla infiltration alarm systems, communication systems and computer night-vision devices. The Zionists, at the same time are supplying the racists with 105 mm self-propelled howitzers, air-to-air rockets and anti-tank missiles for infantrymen. In June 1976, a Knesset member Mercia Freedom revealed that hundreds of Zionist soldiers were attached to South African army units as instructors and participants in training manoeuvres. In 1978, the *New York Times* commented that 5,000 Zionists had "migrated" to South Africa with "useful military skills and in June 1980, the London *Sunday Telegraph* reported that "volunteers" from Israel, Britain and while were serving with South African troops against Namibian freedom fighters in Namibia. In the last three years General Haim Bar-Lev, major General Alaron Yariv, Lieut. General Mordechai Gur, General Chaim Herzog and Ezer Weizmann have all visited apartheid South Africa "to discuss security matters."

By far the most ominous of all manifestations of Zionist-racist collaboration to have emerged over the five years since 1976 is in the nuclear field. Zionist technology was exchanged for South African enriched uranium. There is conclusive evidence that seven Zionist nuclear scientists are working at the University of Witwatersrand.

In September 1978 an explosion took place in the south Atlantic Ocean which was monitored by the United States VELA nuclear detection satellite. According to a report compiled by the British television programme "World in Action", the explosion was an Israeli-South African developed nuclear shell which can be delivered by a South African howitzer made from United States and Belgian components. At a range of up to 30 km it would kill unprotected human beings 100 metres from impact.

Moreover, economic co-operation between the two racist entities is fundamentally strategic and has three crucial elements:

Firstly, South African raw and strategic materials (particularly steel, coal and enriched uranium) dominate Pretoria's export to Israel, while technical expertise and military equipment and weapons in turn dominate Israel's exports to South Africa.

Secondly, particularly through joint investment projects, the Zionists are providing South African manufacturing industry with a channel for evading

international boycotts of South African goods, especially in Africa, and also for penetrating the immensely profitable market of the European Economic Community (EEC) by the back door;

Thirdly, special trade credits, relaxation of the export of capital, income tax arrangements and favourable government contracts.

The real importance of Israeli-South African trade links was stressed by South Africa's most influential economic periodical, the *Financial Mail*, which pointed out in 1970 that:

(a) "together with Switzerland, Israel is South Africa's fastest growing trade partner;"

(b) if uncut diamonds and undisclosed defence force purchases are taken into account, Israel is already one of South Africa's biggest trading partners;"

(c) "after 1981 South African sales to Israel would likely top R1 billion over US \$1.25 billion); and;

(d) Israel "is ideal for joint manufacturing ventures and selective industrial investment, because it has a special relationship to the EEC and also exports a large variety of goods to the U.S. duty-free."

Thus it is obvious from the above facts that there

exists very close cooperation between racist South Africa and Zionist Israel and the basic aim of this unholy alliance is to fight the national liberation movements in Africa. Namibia and occupied Palestine.

Since the O.A.U. is committed to the liberation of Namibia and Azania, the two last bastions of colonialism on the African continent, it can only ignore Zionist-racist cooperation at its own peril. Moves by the O.A.U. to have economic sanctions imposed on the racists will come to nothing if the link between Pretoria and Tel Aviv is not carefully studied and resolutely fought. The same applies with the arms embargo.

Given the fact that both are racist entities based on the dispossession of the indigenous population by alien settler minorities the fight against apartheid must, of necessity, include the struggle against Zionism, for both are two sides of the same coin. Consequently it is unconceivable how the O.A.U. can reverse its stand against Zionism which it took in the past... rather it is more national to further strengthen its support to the just struggle of the Palestinian people. It is this support and cooperation that will ensure the final defeat of apartheid and Zionism — the two ideologies declared repugnant to human conscience by the international community.



ZIONISTS LIQUIDATE PALESTINIAN INTELLECTUALS AND LEADERS

Assassination of many Palestinian leaders, authors and intellectuals, by Zionist secret agents around the world, is a part of the Zionist terror campaign launched against the Palestinians. It also shows the determination of the fascist rulers in Tel Aviv to continue to annihilate the Palestinian Revolution, its leaders and representatives abroad. With implicit American approval, the Israeli intelligence agency went beyond the normal espionage operations, to a great extent, when it waged a war of elimination against the Palestinian leaders and cadres whom Israel considers undesirable. Following is a list of some Palestinian leaders and intellectuals murdered by Mossad and its paid agents.

1972

— Ghassan Kanafani, an author, also the spokesman of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (P.F.L.P), was assassinated by Mossad agents in Beirut when the explosive device, planted in his car, went off. Kanafani's niece Lamis was also killed in the incident.

1973

The Mossad assassinated Wael Zuaiter in Rome, a diplomat who worked for the Palestinian Resistance.

— Mossad agents murdered Mahmoud Hamshari, the P.L.O. representative in Paris and Muhammad Boudia, an Algerian citizen working for the Palestinian Resistance, who was also killed by a bomb planted by Mossad agents and detonated by radio control. Two weeks later, a Zionist assassination squad also murdered Basil Kubaisy of the P.F.L.P. in Paris. On April 10, 1973, western European "tourists" paid by Mossad, killed several Palestinians in Beirut, among them Kamal Nasser, the P.L.O. spokesman, and Kamal Adwan and Muhammad Yousef Najjar, also P.L.O. officials.

1974

— Israeli agents shot dead Ahmad Bouchikhi, a Moroccan waiter who was working in a restaurant in Norway. The killers mistakenly believed that he was an official in the Palestinian Resistance.

1975

— Zionist agents attempted to blow up the Solidarité Franco-Arabe office in Paris. French police

discovered the bomb, only minutes before it was due to explode. In the same year, Zionist agents set fire to Paris bookshops which were selling material favourable to the Palestinian cause.

1977

— Mossad murdered Mahmoud Salih, a Palestinian militant in Paris.

1978

— Said Hamami, the P.L.O. representative in London, was shot dead in his office by Zionist professional killers.

1979

— Ali Hassan Salameh, a Fateh security official, was assassinated in Beirut along with other P.L.O. militants by a radio-controlled explosive device. Mossad also murdered two P.L.O. members, Abu Safwat and Samir Touqan, in Cyprus.

1980

— Municipal leaders in the occupied West Bank were also subjected to murder attempts by Zionist agents. Karim Khalaf, Mayor of Ramallah, and Bassam Shaka'a Mayor of Nablus escaped death on the same day when Zionist agents planted explosive devices in their cars. Khalaf was rushed to hospital suffering from critical injuries while Bassam Shaka'a lost both his legs. Zionist authorities also deported two mayors out of their own country. The Mayor of Halhoul, Muhammad Melhem, and the Mayor of Hebron Fahd Qawasmeh were exiled. The latter and others had been resisting the Zionist occupation and has spoken openly of supporting the P.L.O.

1981

— Dr. Naim Khader, the P.L.O. representative in Brussels, was shot dead by Zionist agents while entering the building in which his office was located. Dr. Naim Khader had an ability in explaining the Palestinian cause objectively and convincingly to European public opinion. Three months later, Zionist agents planted an explosive device under the bed of Majed Abu Sharar in his Rome hotel room. Abu Sharar, who was the head of P.L.O. Unified Information, was burned almost to ashes due to the quantity of Hexogyn, the principal material of which the bomb was made.

Zionist agents during 1981 committed some very barbarous crimes in Beirut and other parts of Lebanon. After the American-made Israeli F-16s raided Beirut and south Lebanon in savage attacks in which over 500 civilians were killed and over 1000 injured, Israel decided to continue its war of liquidation against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

Israeli agents used a booby-trapped car in bombing the densely populated Skandarani street in Sidon in which 28 people killed and 135 injured. The victims were mostly women and children. Shortly after that, another booby-trapped car containing 40 kgs of Hexogyn and 80 litres of petrol exploded in Tibi street in Beirut killing 120 people and injuring 300 more, mostly shopkeepers and university students.



Yousif Fakhouri and injured Josef Katra.

ISRAELI GUNBOATS INTERCEPT LEBANESE FISHERMEN INSIDE TERRITORIAL WATERS

On January 23, 1982, Israeli gunboats intercepted 30 Lebanese fishing boats off the coasts of Tyre, Ras al-Ain and al-Shawakir in south Lebanon. The Israeli naval vessels attacked the fishermen's boats sinking two of them and damaging many others. Two men, Josef Katra and Yousif Fakhouri, were seriously wounded and thrown overboard. They were later rescued by their companions and sent to Jabal A'amil Hospital in Tyre. It is worth mentioning that this is the first clear Israeli infringement of the current cease-fire in south Lebanon, which so far, has lasted nearly seven months. But it is not the first time that the Israelis have intercepted the fishermen at sea and damaged their boats, nets and catches or kidnapped some of them, as happened many times during 1981.

Josef Katra, one of the two injured men now in hospital said: "My boat was smashed and I fell into the water with wounds in my leg and

1981: OVER 2,000 VICTIMS OF ISRAELI AND ISRAELI-BACKED TERROR IN LEBANON

Over two thousand people died last year in Lebanon as a result of Israeli raids and acts of Israeli-backed militias. This emerges from information released by the Lebanese police recently and quoted by the GDR news agency *ADN* on January 3, 1982. In July 1981 alone, some five hundred Lebanese and Palestinians were killed in the barbaric Israeli artillery shelling and air raids against the southern part of the country and the western part of Beirut. Exchanges of shelling which time and again erupted between the two sectors of the Lebanese capital claimed a further 360 lives. Almost 250 persons were killed in the large number of bomb explosions and attacks of other types carried out by rightist forces in order to prevent the situation in Lebanon from normalizing.

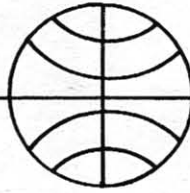
arm. My brother rescued me and took me to the hospital."

Yousif Fakhouri, who had to swim back to the shore said: "After about half an hour in the water the Israeli forced me to swim back to the shore under threat of death.

"The Israelis tore all of our 40 nets," he added. "I was used to the Israeli gunboats approaching and inundating my boat with water, forcing me to abandon my nets and return home. The nets are the key means by which I earn my living. This time, the enemy gun boats willfully rammed me at high speed, sinking my boat."

A 24 hour strike was declared by the Fishermen's Union in the southern Lebanese port of Tyre on January 25 in protest against repeated Israeli aggression and harrassment against the town and its citizens.

The president of the Fishermen's Union, Mr. Ibrahim Farran stated that such aggression is part of a plot to force the fishermen and their families into leaving the South. He added: "The fishermen made a complaint to UNIFIL which stated that this kind of aggression is habitual in the south. The Israelis it seems, are escalating their terroristic acts. The aggression was previously against only one or two fishermen but now it is against all the fishermen. This constitutes a serious threat to the living conditions of a wide sector of the population of south Lebanon."



"UNITY IN ACTION" 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF ANC

1982 marks the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the African National Congress (ANC) and its struggle to eliminate the apartheid regime in South Africa.

On January 11 the Anti-Apartheid Committee of the United Nations Organisation gave a reception to mark the foundation of this liberation organisation. Oliver Tambo, president of the ANC, made a speech in the reception describing 1982 as a decisive year in the organisation's struggle to eliminate the South African racist regime. He said that the unity of action and worldwide mobilisation for sanctions were a prerequisite for forcing the occupiers of Namibia and their backers to give way. Confrontation between the racist rulers and the ANC-led masses has intensified more and more during recent years. The people's determination, despite reprisals by the government in Pretoria or rather because of them, to struggle for a free, democratic Azania (South Africa) cannot be checked by anything, Oliver Tambo declared.

The ANC is now accepted as the leader of the liberation struggle by the majority of people, he said adding that, despite the organisation's ban, democratically-minded men, women, more young people, and school students sensed the brutal regime. The organisation would pay even more attention in the next weeks and months to broadening its mass base. All progressive people in South Africa, irrespective of their racial and ethnic group, should be united in the ANC's ranks, he said. Therefore "Unity in Action" is the motto of the struggle in 1982. Unity against the oppressor is the very foundation of the ANC.

At the present time political actions had to retain priority over military ones, Oliver Tambo said. The ANC's political actions were borne by the trade unions, which was why the working class was at the centre of the ANC's ideological work. Every strike, every boycott of sham elections and other political ballyhoo increased the organisation's fighting power.

The ANC president said that the military actions of the ANC's military wing (Umkhonto we Sizwe), spear of the nation, were also becoming increasingly effective. Perhaps for the first time in its 70-year history the organisation had the possibility of effectively responding to the physical violence of the fascists and racists, thanks to its revolutionary bases among the people.

He went on to say that enemies would have to accept that those South Africans who identified

themselves with a democratic future in South Africa were increasingly identifying themselves with the aims and actions of the ANC.

Celebrations held all over the world to mark the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the ANC became a demonstration of support and solidarity of all the progressive forces of the world with the struggle of the people of Southern Africa.

In a press conference held in Moscow on January 16, Alfred Nzo, General Secretary of the ANC, stressed that imperialism, above all U.S. imperialism, and the apartheid regime were coming closer together. The policy of the Washington-backed ruling circles of South Africa assumed an increasingly reactionary character. Persecution of freedom fighters, forceful resettlement of Africans to Bantustans, incessant aggression against the front-line states — all this served to perpetuate the rule of the white minority South Africa, Nzo said.

He declared that Pretoria's attempts to destroy the ANC, which was in the vanguard of the struggle against apartheid, had been all in vain. The ANC was fighting and achieving victories on all fronts: political, economic, military. The ANC General Secretary said that all the national forces of the country had armed themselves with the ANC programme, the Freedom Charter. The ANC was working to consolidate the alliance of workers, peasants, the youth and clergymen so as to eliminate the apartheid regime and establish a state where there would be no oppression or racial discrimination.

FURTHER ISOLATION OF BLACK POPULATION

South Africa's racist regime has created another Bantustan — Ciskei. This "free" state has about a million black people living on an area of some 253 square kilometres. It is the fourth "independent state" created by the Pretoria regime after Transkei in 1976, Bophuthatswana in 1977 and Venda in 1978.

Thanks to colonial-racist land tenure legislation, the four million white minority have snatched the resource-rich 87 per cent of the nearly 1,2 million square kilometres of South Africa and forced the 22 million Africans to settle on the rest. It is only there that the Africans shall be "free". However their main freedom there is to starve, since the Bantustans, demagogically labelled "homelands", are the meagrest areas of the country. There the Africans are deprived of their rights and are downgraded to "foreign labour" in their own native country.

The racist plan foresees the creation of six

Bantustans in the territory of South Africa which are to be an inexhaustible source of cheap labour for the Pretoria regime. Those whom the authorities have forced into these Bantustans are in a desperate situation. According to data from the South African Institute of Race Relations, the mortality rate among newly-born African babies is 240 per thousand. More than 30,000 children die of malnutrition every year. Hunger and disease are rife in the Bantustans. In 1981 there were more than 100,000 officially registered cases of scurvy (vitamin deficiency disease).

NEW AGGRESSION AGAINST ANGOLA

South African interventionists who invaded the southern regions of Angola are scaling up their aggression. Following fierce fighting against superior enemy forces, the units of the Popular Army for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) had to leave the city of Onjivo, the settlement of Mongua and some other populated cities. During combat operations the racists used toxic gases along with conventional weapons.

Expressing concern over the explosive situation in and around Angola, the African public drew attention to the fact that as the intervention in southern Angola escalates, the agents of the U.S. and Pretoria are preparing to start combat operations in the north of the country. For that purpose, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), special services of South Africa and some Western countries have knocked together the so-called "Military Council of Resistance" on the basis of the totally bankrupt anti-Angolan puppet grouping FNLA.

CONSPIRACY AGAINST NICARAGUA DISCLOSED

The new year will not be an easy one for Nicaragua which has become a target of aggressive machinations.

Seven border guards were killed and 27 members of the Sandinista army captured in the attack launched by ex-President Somoza's bandits from the territory of Honduras. In spite of many protests from the Managua government, Honduras accords hospitality to about 4,000 former national guard troops, accommodated in camps along the frontier with Nicaragua. At the same time, Nicaraguan exile groups are preparing for counter-revolutionary actions in Central America in a number of training camps in the U.S. State of Florida. These camps are tolerated by the American authorities, according to a report in *Die Welt* of January 7. The paper quotes Salvador Arguello, a colonel in Somoza's former National Guard, who said: "Starting from Nicaragua, Panama and finally Cuba are planned to be taken."

In Florida alone, there are at present six "well-

organised and financed" training camps. In the largest of the camps — called "Cuba/Nicaragua" — more than 1,500 men have been trained in the past 12 months in different categories of warfare, for acts of sabotage and with modern automatic weapons.

Hector Fabian, commander of one of the camps, announced large-scale sabotage actions against Nicaragua during the coming period. Already in the past year, more than one hundred of his men had been channelled into the country via Honduras, he said. The counter-revolutionary Cuban exile organisation "Alpha 66" which maintains two training camps in the U.S. said that it had infiltrated agents into Cuba by sea or hidden in tourist groups from Miami, to become active there.

Argentine Colonel Mario Davinco gave \$50,000 to Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries, confessed William Baltodano Herrera, head of the commando group that planned to stage sabotage actions and kill guerrilla commander Leticia Herrera. The money was paid "for things to get moving," he admitted.

PEASANTS KILLED IN GUATEMALA VIOLENCE

More than fifty Guatemalan farmers' families were killed in cold blood by members of paramilitary gangs of the Lucas regime in Huehuetenango province at the beginning of January this year. The farmers and their families, who were on their way to the provincial capital, were machine-gunned near San Antonio Dehuista. On January 8, the bodies of 38 Guatemalan peasants were found. The peasants were tortured and their houses burned down. About 70,000 people have fallen victim to terror in Guatemala since the U.S. United Fruit Concern (now United Brand) had overthrown the bourgeois democratic government of Jacobo Arbenz Guzman some 27 years ago.

The popular liberation forces in Guatemala further intensified their military operations against the reactionary Lucas regime in January. Latest reports from Guatemala City are speaking of an offensive of the liberation fighters in nine of the 22 provinces. Among the most successful actions have been attacks on garrisons and transport of the regime's armed forces, acts of sabotage against government facilities, occupation of smaller villages and temporary cutting of road links.

Thousands of workers, peasants, students and intellectuals joined the liberation movement last year, a leader of the Labour Party (PGT) which is working underground has said. Heavy losses had been inflicted on the armed forces of the Lucas regime. It was now necessary to unite as quickly as possible all revolutionary forces of the country and to set up an anti-imperialist front aimed against domestic oligarchy.



Dr. Hussaini addresses the rally.

On the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the Palestinian Revolution, the Palestinian community in Washington held a rally on January 17th. The rally was attended by Arabs' Palestinians, American friends and representatives of African and American liberation movements and by representatives of progressive American organisations that support the PLO.

Dr. Hatem Hussaini, the PLO Information Office director, in Washington addressed the rally and presented Chairman Arafat's greetings to the Palestinian community as well as to American friends. Hussaini also conveyed to those attending, Chairman Arafat's call to intensify informational and political activities in defence of the Palestinian Revolution, besides his greetings to all the American organisations that support the Palestinian Revolution and which also represent the lively American conscience which opposes Reagan's policy of giving unlimited American financial and military support to the Zionists.

Also among the speakers were Dr. Samih Farsoun, the President of the Palestinian Congress in North America. He stressed that the Congress supports the PLO and defends all PLO stands. He also confirmed that the Congress recognises the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Wafa Nasr, the Lebanese National Movement's representative in the U.S.A. also affirmed to the audience, that the people of Lebanon, represented by all its progressive forces, are in fact indivisible with the Palestinian Revolution and are fighting together in the same trench. Dr.

PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY IN WASHINGTON CELEBRATES 17TH ANNIVERSARY OF PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION.



A scene from the rally.

Nasr assured the audience that the Lebanese people will continue this national struggle against all Zionist agents and collaborators whether in America, in Lebanon or any other part of the world.

Cables of solidarity and support from American and Arab organisations, such as the Black American liberation movement, American progressive organisations, Anti-Zionist Jewish organisations, and PLO supporters contingents, were read at the meeting. A representative of Fateh also greeted the Arab community and thanked them for their support.

He assured them that the Palestinian Revolution under the leadership of Fateh will continue the armed struggle on both the military and political levels until the liberation of all occupied Palestinian territories.

During the celebrations, the Palestinian national anthem and revolutionary songs and dances were performed in addition to an exhibition of Palestinian national popular dress representing many towns and villages from Palestine.

A film about the Zionist air raid against Beirut was also shown. The community saw with their own eyes, how brutal and savage the aggression was which caused many dead and wounded among innocent civilians.

Some Zionist supporters tried to demonstrate in front of the entrance to the building where the celebrations were taking place. The Zionists tried to shout anti-PLO slogans, but the Arab community prevented them and forced them to leave.

DEMOCRATIC KOREA CELEBRATES REVOLUTION'S 17TH ANNIVERSARY

The PLO office in the Democratic Republic of Korea organised a series of cultural events to mark the 17th anniversary of the Palestinian Revolution and Martyrs' Day.

On January 1, a reception was held for the diplomatic corps and high-ranking Korean officials. On January 5, the Palestinian-Korean Friendship Society organised a mass rally that was attended by the Korean Deputy Prime Minister. The speakers concentrated on the Korean stand of support for the struggle of the Palestinian people. The PLO Representative in Korea, Abu Ahmad, confirmed in his speech the determination of the Palestinian people to continue the struggle until victory. Abu Ahmad expressed hope that the Korean problem will be solved diplomatically, and that Korea will be reunified.

On January 8, a rally was held at one of the Korean military colleges, and on January 12 the Korean Foreign Ministry held a reception in its Middle East Department that was attended by the Deputy Foreign Minister, the Director of the Arab Department, the PLO Representative and a number of Korean officials.

LIBYA AND COMORO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE

Libya and the Comoro Islands issued a joint communique in Tripoli on January 15, in which they reaffirmed their support of the Palestinian people's struggle to regain their inalienable national rights.

The communique was issued on the occasion of a visit to Libya by the President of the Comoro Islands.

PALESTINE EXHIBITION OPENS IN NICARAGUA

The Nicaraguan Minister of Education opened a Palestine exhibition in Managua on January 18 in which a selection of photographs depicting all aspects of the Palestinian struggle is on display. In an address, the Minister reiterated Nicaragua's firm stand in support of the Palestinian people's struggle to regain their inalienable rights.

After the opening, a reception was held, which was attended by the Foreign Relations Secretary of the Sandinista Front, a number of ministers, M.P.S, high-ranking military officers and members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps.

The exhibition was given extensive coverage in the Nicaraguan press.

MALTA CELEBRATES PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION'S ANNIVERSARY

A rally marking the 17th anniversary of the Palestinian Revolution was held in Valetta on January 7, as the media in Malta devoted several programmes and feature articles to the subject of the Palestinian struggle. Maltese television also broadcast Yasser Arafat's main speech on the Revolution's anniversary.

At the rally, which was attended by Maltese cabinet ministers, representatives of political parties and unions, the PLO representative in Valetta presented a gift from Arafat to the Prime Minister of Malta, Dom Mintoff.

ALGERIA, TOGO REITERATE SUPPORT OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

Algeria and Togo, in a joint communique issued in Algiers on January 19, reiterated their firm support for the Palestinian people's right to establish an inde-

pendent Palestinian state under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

The communique also condemned the Israeli annexation of the Golan Heights and the relentless Israeli aggression against Lebanon.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION DESCRIBES ISRAELI POLICY AS 'UNJUSTIFIABLE'

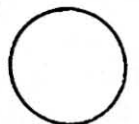
The Student Union of Cambridge University in Great Britain on January 19 adopted a resolution stressing that "Israel's policy towards the Palestinian people is completely unjustifiable".

The resolution, adopted by a majority of 110 votes to 81, was the first of its kind in the history of Cambridge University. The voting followed a debate organised by the Union in which a large number of students took part.

ART EXHIBITION IN POTSDAM ON THE THEME OF PALESTINE

An art exhibition on the theme of the Palestinian struggle opened in Potsdam, German Democratic Republic, on January 10. The exhibition features more than 100 works by various German artists, depicting the struggle and sufferings of the Palestinian people.

Issam Kamel, the PLO Representative in Berlin, gave a short speech at the opening, in which he thanked the German artists for their solidarity with and support for the Palestine cause.



THE BITTER BREAD

Majed Abu Sharar, the head of the unified information office of the PLO, and member of Fateh central committee, was killed by a remote control bomb on October 7, in his hotel room in Rome where he had been attending a conference for Palestinian authors and intellectuals. He was at one time considered a leading Palestinian fiction writer. The following short story was published in Al Ufuq al Jedid (New Horizon), the only literary magazine in the West Bank in the early 60's.

In his stories Majed Abu Sharar focused on the problems and sufferings of the poor, an outlook that was missing from the writings of other writers in the era.

His style of writing is considered very simple and reflective and dedicated to all sectors of society and not to an elite. Majed lived and died for a cause. He said, to repeat a phrase that reflected his belief in the cause which he died for: "In these days, death is present in every action we take, in movement, and in halting, but I would rather die moving."

BY MAJED ABU SHARAR

Through the small town, located at the foot of a treeless mountain, passes a small stream quietly making the surroundings bloom. The fertile area ends with a sparse grey bank. It is the phosphate mine near al-Resaiyfeh where I work with hundreds of others.

Early in the morning, we head to the tool sheds where they hand us the equipment. We walk along the railway pushing a cart through the tunnel. The mountain then swallows me and the other workers. We stay for long hours digging white powder out of the hill. We fill up carts with the white powder, then we drive them outside where we empty them and mark on a sheet of paper: 'One cart, 35 piasters.'

The job is very rough, the danger of death in a cave-in is present at every moment. In addition there is the dampness of the mine, and the lack of light.

The dangers used to bother me most in the morning, especially when I first get to the mine. Abu Khamis' voice comes from a small side tunnel awakening me from my thoughts;

"Is that you Fa'eq? You are late."

I stop the cart, pull the axe, a spade, a container, and a small light from it and head towards Abu Khamis.

"Good morning, is the dirt here hard to dig?"

Without raising his head; "I am working anyway."

Then we get busy under the pale light, and the cold. Every time I raise my head, I find Abu Khamis working hard as if he were not 50 years old. Every time I warn him against working this hard, he says,

"What do you care. You do not have a sick wife waiting for food, or hungry children, or school expenses to be paid."

He then stops and looks at me. I know he cared for me.

During the few moments of rest, we used to eat a dry meal — a piece of bread with a tomato and some water. During those breaks I try to get to know Abu Khamis, but he always seems unwilling to respond to my questions. He does not want anybody to interfere with his life.

Little by little, I managed to acquire his trust. He told me all about his life, about Jaffa and the orange groves which resembled a green sky with yellow stars. He also told me about his small factory which he left behind along with his shattered heart, broken over his martyred son.

He told me about the miserable life he lived after he left Jaffa. I know what it means to be hungry, cold, an alien, and the pain of losing a son. His words were mixed with pain while his eyes were full of anger.

One day he told me, "Fa'eq, you are a young man, but I feel as if everything is fleeing, after my youth has gone. The light in my eyes is disappearing, strength is running out of my veins, and my age is leaving me behind, going to an eternal rest."

I tried to give him some confidence. "But you are still very strong and active, even more youthful than I am. On the average you produce two carts a day while I produce only one."

"It is not the strength I want. It is actually the last drop of strength which I have been trying to squeeze out of my tired body."

He always mourns his youth, even though he is the most active worker in the mine. All he cared for is to meet his sick wife and five daughters' needs. His sick wife was in need of healthy food and medicine, while his daughters needed the school expenses. He's made me a partner of his secrets. He comes every day with news about his family.

"Suhaila is the top of her class. I promised her a new wrist watch. I must start saving money for that."

Another time he came and told me, laughing. "Do you know what Leila wants? She wants a red car like the car that takes Afaf (our neighbour) to school. She got angry because I did not promise her one."

On a third day he told me, "The doctor asked me for 30 Jordanian dinars for surgery for my wife. I told him that I am a poor worker. But he said, 'so?'"

One day he stopped me after I emptied my cart and said:

"Fa'eq, I want to ask you a question."

"What is it?"

He said with obvious hesitation; "How long would a person with consumption live?"

I said, "Why do you ask about that?"

He responded painfully, "I have it."

I was shocked. I tried to convince him to see a doctor, but he said. "No. I will not go."

I said, "The company does not pay for our medical treatment. That means you should see a doctor, or else you will die."

"I know but what would the doctor do? He'll send me to the hospital where they will take care of me, but who will feed my wife and daughters, do you understand?"

The days pass and Abu Khamis

is still working in the mountain; while the tuberculosis eats out his chest.

I lived through a rough period. Abu Khamis' coughs tear my chest before his. I used to get scared when the coughing caught him while the blood comes out of his mouth. When he stops coughing, he continues to work silently. I used to pour some phosphates into his cart from time to time. This was the most I could do. He was so dear to me ... I wished that youth could be transferred from one person to another so I could share my youth with him.

He started feeling the end was nearing. The hard work he did was helping his sickness in drawing his end closer. He worried most about his family starving once he is unable to work. He wished to live until his oldest daughter finishes high

school, so she can become a teacher.

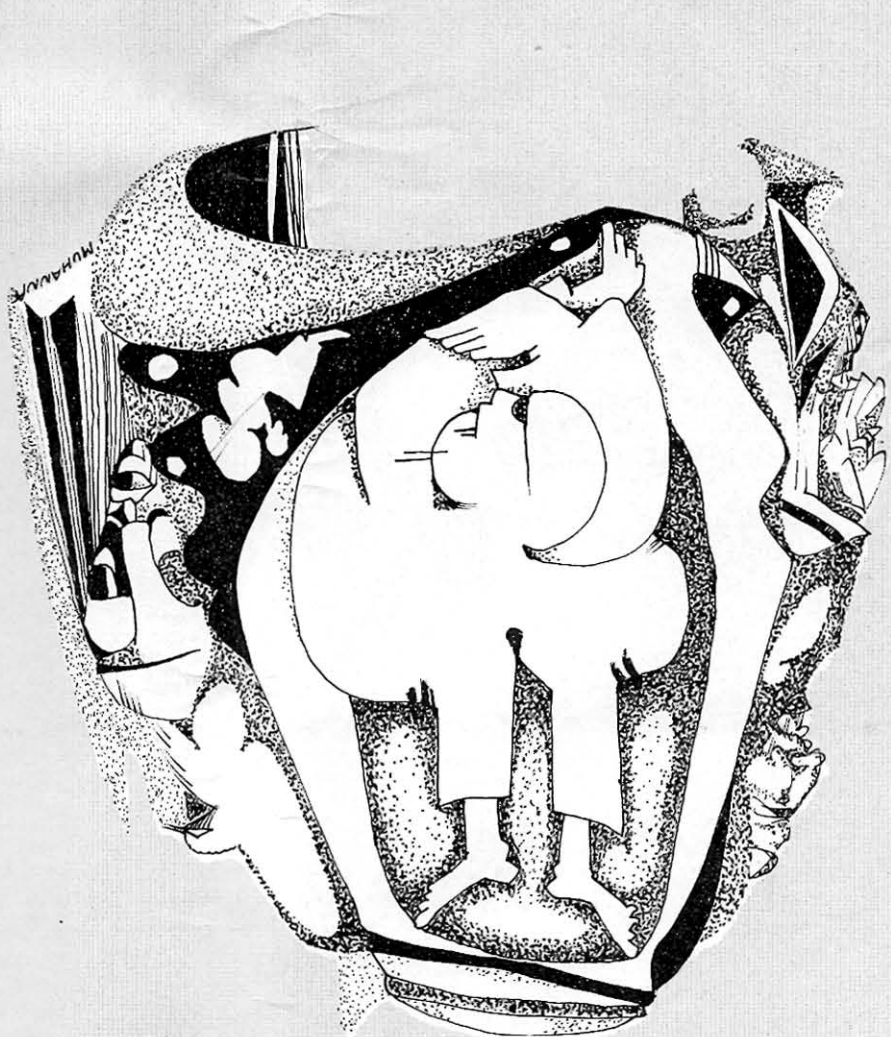
One morning, Abu Khamis did not show up to work. I knew that he had started to give in to the sickness. I went to visit him. Everything reflected the sign of the end.

The coughs calmed down, while the light of life was departing from his eyes. He gazed at me with a look that carried a thousand meanings. His wife and daughters were weeping in a corner. He suddenly raised his hand, shivered, and his head and hand fell on his chest. I, then, covered the face which ran away from life.

Written in 1959

Translated by Sami Al-Aboudi

The following short story was published first by the Palestinian weekly AL-FAJR in its issue of 20-26, 1981. AL-FAJR is published in the occupied territories.





VICTORY IN SIGHT