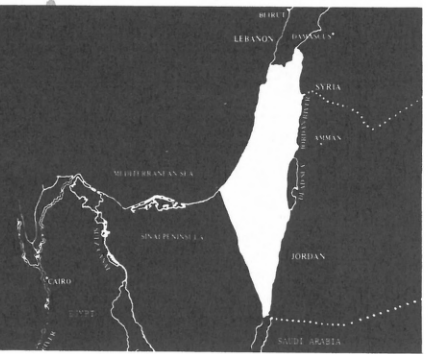


Palestine!



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June 10, 1976

WEST BANK UPRISINGS CONTINUE

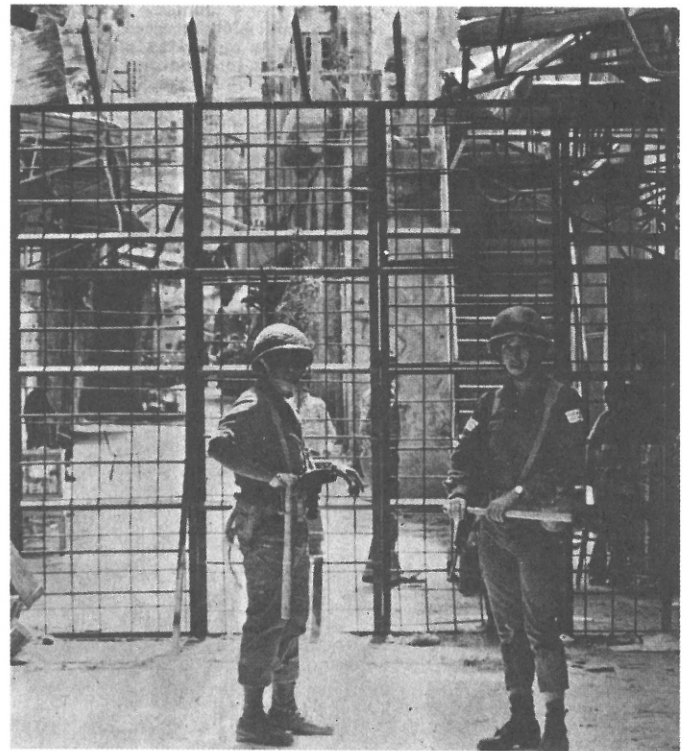
Israel Escalates Violence, Increases Settlements

In the past month the confrontation between the Palestinian people of the West Bank and the Israeli government has been intensifying. The Palestinian demonstrations have grown even more militant; and Israel, with its burgeoning right-wing, has exacerbated the conflict by murdering more demonstrators and engaging in a raucous public debate on the issue of settlement in the West Bank—a debate which showed that very strong forces in Israel are determined to occupy the West Bank permanently.

The demonstrations which broke out in the West Bank last January have never totally subsided. Male and female, students, workers and small merchants alike have participated in these actions. Viewers of the nightly television news in the US have watched scenes not unlike some from the film, "Battle of Algiers," which portrayed the struggle of the people of Algeria: students stoning armoured Israeli patrol vehicles and helmeted submachinegun-armed Israeli soldiers; troopers chasing children into mazelike "casbahs" of West Bank cities only to become cornered, stoned and forced to retreat; militant demonstrations of thousands of Arabs chanting slogans supporting the PLO and waving the Palestinian flag; funerals for murdered children and youths being transformed into massive demonstrations against occupation; and the widespread and growing use of strikes by workers and merchants.

Two recent upsurges of activity have sharpened the confrontation. To mark May Day there were a number of large scale demonstrations of the West Bank, and the unrest was contained by the end of that week only through the extensive use of curfews and mass arrests. But actions more ferocious than any of the previous ones exploded during the week of May 15, the

[Con't. on page 4]



Israeli soldiers erect gates to Casbah in Nablus in attempt to control demonstrations. See page 8 for details.

PROTEST ISRAEL DAY PARADE

Demonstrate June 13

On Sunday, June 13, 75,000 people will parade up Fifth Avenue in New York City in a "Salute to Israel," Zionist organizations have announced. A counter-demonstration called a "Salute to Palestine" has been called by a coalition of anti-imperialist organizations. The counter-demonstration will begin with a rally at 11:00 a.m. on June 13 at the Exxon Building, symbol of U.S. imperialism, at 50th Street and Sixth Avenue, and then will march up Park Avenue, parallel to the Zionist demonstration.

The theme of the Zionist parade is "Proclaim liberty throughout the land," an ironic slogan as many Zionists are insisting that all the occupied Palestinian territory is part of their "land" and Palestinians in the West Bank and Galilee are being shot dead for demonstrating against occupation and oppression. The official poster for the parade features a joined Israeli and

U.S. flag, symbolizing that the parade, as the organizers of the counter-demonstrations have declared, is a celebration of the alliance of U.S. imperialism and Zionism.

Israel's Ambassador to the UN and its Ambassador to the U.S. will participate, and all the U.S. presidential candidates and city and state officials have been invited to sit on the reviewing stand.

The Palestine Action Coalition, which is organizing the counterdemonstration, denounced the Zionist parade, declaring that the "Salute to Israel" is "a salute to racism: the UN has condemned Zionism, which is the basis for the Israeli state, as a form of racism. It is a salute to colonialism: Israel denies the Palestinian people their right to self-determination. It is a salute to repression: Israeli soldiers are murdering Palestinians demonstrating against occupation and discrimination in the

[Con't. on page 5]



JOINING IN DANCE in cordoned-off street at close of New York City rally.

Events in Dozen Cities

"Victory to the PLO!" "Recognize the National Rights of the Palestinian People!" "No U.S. Aid to Israel!"—these were among the slogans raised by several thousand people across the U.S. on May 15, the International Day of Solidarity With the Palestinian People.

May 15 is the anniversary of the seizure of Palestinian land for the creation of the Israeli state in 1948. In calling upon people in the U.S. to demonstrate on May 15, the PLO's Information Office in New York declared, "The concerted struggle of our people and the recognition accorded to it have changed the significance of May 15. It is now a day of asserting Palestinian national determination to fight for our inalienable rights."

The event was marked in at least a dozen U.S. cities, including New York City, Albuquerque, Chicago, Washington, D.C., Denver, and Youngstown, Ohio. In Knoxville, Tennessee, several Arab-American organizations, along with the Knoxville Friends of Palestine, sponsored a weeklong series of events including the showing of a film on Palestine, a speech given by Dr. Clovis Maksoud of the Arab League, and a banquet of traditional Palestinian food followed by Arabic music and dancing. In San Francisco, over a hundred people attended an event sponsored by the Palestine Solidarity Committee, which included a cultural presentation and a slide show on the history of the Palestinian struggle. In Dearborn, Michigan, the mayor pro tem proclaimed "Palestine Week."

The Palestine Solidarity Committee in Pittsburgh has also announced plans to sponsor a solidarity event in late June.

People Rally For



FROM THE PODIUM at N.Y.C. rally. PLO U.N. Observer, Zuhdi Tarazi, second from right in foreground, gives "V" for victory.



PSC Under Fire

Using McCarthy-style scare stories and lies, Congressman Larry MacDonald of Georgia made a slanderous attack on the Palestine Solidarity Committee in the Congressional Record on May 4.

MacDonald claimed that the committee's work "may range from teach-ins and picket lines to terror bombs," and that the group had been developed by "foreign terrorists."

The 2000-word report appears to have drawn primarily from literature published by the committee and government dossiers on committee members.

A later report by MacDonald in the Congressional Record gave details of the May 16 International Day of Solidarity activity in Brooklyn, N.Y., that the PSC helped to organize. MacDonald said that he had an observer at the event that provided him with information on speeches and participants.

The Palestine Solidarity Committee, organized in New York City, publishes the monthly *Palestine!*, and has also helped organize mass solidarity activities to build support for the Palestinian struggle.

MacDonald, a high John Birch Society official, has been for years publishing in the Congressional Record attacks on progressive U.S. organizations (recently Friendship—People-to-People Aid to Vietnam and the National Lawyers Guild). MacDonald has also been disclosed in the U.S. press as a regular source of information on left activities for forty New York police chiefs through a publication called *Information Digest*.

CHILDREN'S CONTINGENT
leads march through New York's
Arab community to rally site.

Palestine

PLO Representative Addresses N.Y.C. Rally

Palestinian flags, strung across the street and hung from lamp posts and fire escapes, decorated a cordoned-off block of Atlantic Avenue in the center of New York City's Arab community on May 16. Palestinian children led a march of an estimated 750 people, representing Arab community organizations and anti-imperialist groups in the U.S., through the neighborhood to the site of the rally and street festival.

Zuhdi Tarazi, PLO Observer to the United Nations, addressed the crowd, discussing the history of the Palestinian struggle "to assume the responsibility to decide our own destiny."

"We shall maintain our struggle until victory," he continued, "until we return to our Palestine to establish a democratic, secular state where Christians, Moslems and Jews will live in equality." Tarazi, who gave most of his speech in English, had begun in Arabic and concluded, to the cheers of the multinational crowd, with "Patria O Muerte!"

At the New York rally, Sami Albanna, representing the Palestine Day Mobilizing Committee, which sponsored the event, noted the advances of the Palestinian movement:

"The Palestinian revolution ushered the Middle East into a revolutionary era. After the October 1973 war, the Palestinian revolution continued the offensive against the Zionist enemy on the one hand, against the settlement schemes sponsored by U.S. imperialism on the other hand, as well as the slanderous

attempts of the Hashemites [the Jordanian regime] to assume representation of the Palestinian people... Today, an overwhelming majority of the world's nations recognize the PLO for what it is, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

Sheila Ryan, a representative of the Palestine Action Coalition, composed of a number of anti-imperialist groups in the U.S., called for the withdrawal of U.S. technicians in the Sinai and an end to U.S. aid to Israel, now totaling over \$2 billion annually. "This is a crucial moment to demonstrate our solidarity with the Palestinian people. It is a time when Israeli soldiers are wielding weapons either manufactured in the U.S. or made available to the Israeli army through U.S. aid... when U.S. tanks are patrolling the West Bank."

American Indian Movement representative Jimmy Durham said to the crowd that, "The American Indian people were put into reservations that are like refugee camps," comparing his people's situation to that of the Palestinians. "We fight the racism," he continued, "that says we are savage people, that we are 'terrorists' because we fight for the rights of our people... We stand with the Palestinian people and the Palestine Liberation Organization."

The event concluded with singing performances by Arab children, and traditional Palestinian music and dancing.

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Staff for this issue: George Cavalletto, Bill Peters, Sheila Ryan, Barbara Lou Shafer, Milton Taam, Jon Ziv. Special thanks to Jim Zogby.

West Bank [Con't. from page 1]

anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel and the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

NEW UPSURGE

Yasser Arafat had issued a call for demonstrations in the occupied areas on May 15. The mass organizations of students, workers, women and professionals grouped under the Palestine National Front, the PLO's arm in the West Bank, produced and distributed their own leaflets calling for actions on May 15. In an attempt to forestall the demonstrations, the Israeli government took a number of activists, 30 according to one report, into "preventive detention," and arrested others for allegedly stockpiling stones to throw and tires to burn in barricades. On May 15 businesses went on strike in Qalqilyah, Tulkarm and Nablus and demonstrators in many West Bank towns fought with Israeli troops. Curfews were imposed on parts of Jenin and Nablus to disperse the crowds.

The demonstrations continued, however, and on the morning of May 16, hundreds of students in Nablus marched out of their schools toward the central square. The demonstration was broken up by steel-helmeted troops. Then, according to reports, soldiers followed Lina Hassan Nabulsi, a teen-aged girl arrested a number of times in the past for patriotic activities. She went to the home of a friend, and there, inside the door, a half hour after the demonstration, a soldier shot her fatally twice in the neck. She was buried that afternoon; a funeral procession of 8000 people, including the mayors of cities in the West Bank, bore her coffin, draped with a Palestinian flag, through the streets of Nablus. She was the daughter of a prominent and wealthy nationalist family in Nablus.

Her murder touched off protests more fierce than any of the preceding ones, leading Israeli officials to worry, according to the *New York Times*, that "the riots are growing progressively worse and more difficult to control."

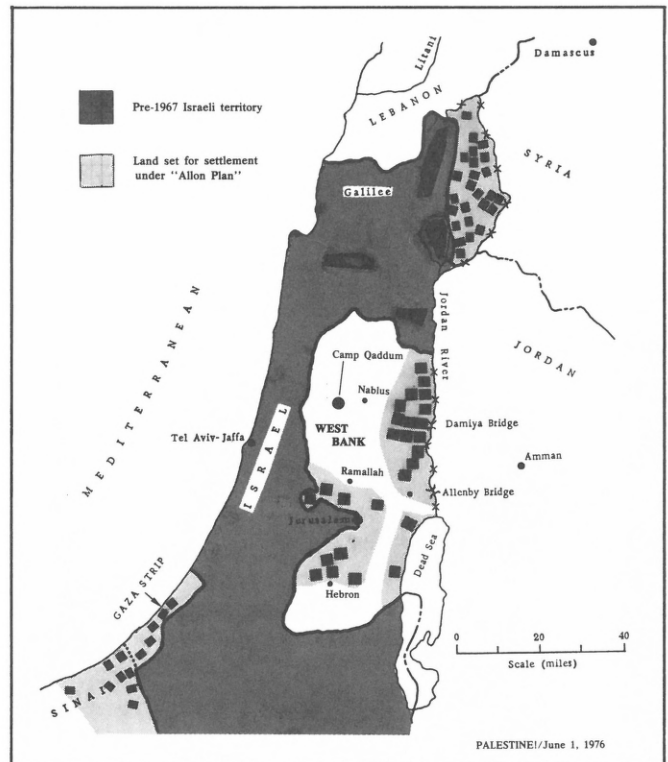
On May 17, according to reports, two Israeli soldiers were driving along the road from Jerusalem to Ramallah when they ran into a stone roadblock near the Kalandia refugee camp. Two hundred Palestinians stoned their truck, breaking all the windows. The truck managed to pull away, but 50 yards down the road, it passed a group of vocational students who had been watching the incident with their headmaster. The headmaster, Nabih M. Awad, told the *New York Times*, "As the truck raced by I suddenly saw an Uzi submachinegun barrel poke out the driver's window. There was a burst of fire and we all dived to the ground. When I looked up I saw that one boy had been hit in the head. The truck never stopped." Seventeen-year-old Abdullah Mustapha Halil Hawas was killed; he was the son of a refugee family living in the Shuafat camp.

That evening, after his body and Palestinian flags were carried in a procession through the streets of Jerusalem, funeral ceremonies were held at the Al Aksa Mosque.

On the next afternoon, May 18, a Palestinian flag flew atop the Al Aksa Mosque for the funeral of a third victim of Israeli repression, Mahmoud Kurd. That morning curfews had been clamped on a number of towns and refugee camps in the West Bank, to prevent demonstrations against the two retaliatory murders by Israeli soldiers in as many days. Despite that, Israeli soldiers on patrol near the Damascus Gate in the old city of Jerusalem were pelted early in the morning with stones and bottles. One of the soldiers shot 21-year-old Mahmoud Kurd, three times in the head.

DEBATE IN ISRAEL

The persistence of militant demonstrations has underscored the failure of the Israeli government's policy for the West Bank. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had been attempting to undercut the PLO's political strength on the West Bank by a two part



policy: implementing a "self-administration" scheme and holding out the possibility of return in some form of some parts of the West Bank to Jordan's King Hussein.

Rabin had hoped that traditional pro-Hussein notables would win the April municipal elections on the West Bank; these collaborators would then be entrusted with extending conservative control over West Bank political life, and, on an international level, would be displayed as the representatives of the Palestinians, and an alternative to the PLO. Rabin's hopes were dashed, however, when nationalist and pro-PLO forces vanquished the old politicians at the polls in April, despite all the support the Jordanian and Israeli governments had lent to the reactionaries' election campaigns.

The second facet of Rabin's policy was highlighted in January, when he returned from a trip to Washington advocating implementation of the "Jordanian option" in negotiations over the West Bank. There is no evidence that Rabin actually intended to go beyond maintaining the appearance of openness to discussions with Jordan over the West Bank, a position urged on him by Ford and Kissinger. The "peace plan" which Rabin seemed to be brandishing involved the return of political and administrative control of portions of a demilitarized West Bank to King Hussein. Israel would retain more than 30 percent of the West Bank: the Jordan Valley and the hills to the west of it; a corridor to the Jordan River in the south in the Hebron area; Jerusalem and its environs.

This plan fitted the guidelines of the "Allon Plan," devised by the present Foreign Minister Yigal Allon in 1967, and tacitly accepted by Rabin's government and each of the previous Israeli governments since 1967. The Allon Plan includes a string of settlements along the Jordan River and around Jerusalem and Hebron to buttress Israel's military position and its negotiating stance in any future talks. Since 1967 the Israelis have constructed 68 Jewish settlements, with housing, agricultural and industrial developments, in the occupied areas at a cost of nearly half a billion dollars. Twenty-six settlements with a population of 8,000 are in the West Bank (excluding those around Jerusalem).

With the "self-administration" aspect of Rabin's policy blocked by Palestinian nationalists in the West Bank, the "Jordanian option" portion of it has been undercut recently not

[Con't. on page 6]

Palestine!

Box 1757 Manhattanville Station

New York, New York 10027

June 10, 1976

WILL YOU RECEIVE YOUR NEXT ISSUE OF PALESTINE!?

Dear Friends,

We have been gratified at the large number of people who have subscribed to **Palestine!** in the past two months.

For financial reasons we must delete from the mailing list those of you who have not yet expressed interest or subscribed to **Palestine!** To insure receiving future issues, make sure you've sent us your subscription.

We appreciate the contributions which many of you sent in addition to your subscriptions. We ask others of you to make a donation if you can afford it; **Palestine!** has no large contributors and must rely on its readers for financial support.

Palestine Solidarity Committee

-
- ☐ I want to subscribe to **Palestine!** for one year (10 issues). I am enclosing \$5.
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June 13 Demo [Con't. from page 1]

West Bank and Galilee. It is a salute to a state where a small elite oppresses not only the Palestinian people, but the majority of the Jewish population, who are from Arab, African and Asian countries, and the masses of Jewish workers.

"Our counterdemonstration will salute the Palestinian people, who are struggling heroically for their national rights. Self-determination for Palestine!"

"City and U.S. government officials will be with the Zionists to celebrate the alliance between U.S. imperialism and Zionism, while U.S. military and other aid flows into Israel at the rate of \$2 billion per year.

"We will show that in the city—where we are suffering from cutbacks in our basic services—not all the people stand behind the U.S. government in its support of Israel. Stop all U.S. aid to Israel!"

Co-sponsors of the counter-demonstration include: Arab Student Club, Columbia University; Black Panther Party, East Coast; El Comite-MINP; Eritreans for Liberation in North America; Friends of Haiti; the Guardian; International Indian Treaty Council (AIM); Irish Republican Clubs of USA and Canada; Liberation Support Movement; Palestine Information Committee; Palestine Red Crescent Society; Palestinian Women's Union; Palestine Solidarity Committee; Partido Comunista Dominicana; Prairie Fire Organizing Committee; Puerto Rican Socialist Party; Socialist Workers Party; Student Worker Organizing Collective; Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP); Yemeni Emigre Club; War Tax Resistance; Venceremos Brigade; Young Socialist Alliance.

For further information, or for leaflets to distribute, contact the Palestine Action Coalition, c/o Palestine Solidarity Committee, Box 1757, Manhattanville Station, New York, New York 10027. ●

West Bank [Con't. from page 4]

only by Palestinian militants but also by the Israeli right wing, very probably the strongest political force in Israel today. The battle between Rabin and those in Israel even more reactionary than him has been joined on the issue of Jewish settlement in the West Bank: should it be along the lines of the Allon Plan, and thus consistent with the "Jordanian option," or should it be more pervasive, and thus implying permanent and total Israeli rule of the area?

The debate was precipitated by the Gush Emunim, a rightist group committed to Jewish control and settlement of all the occupied areas. The Gush Emunim defied Rabin's government by establishing a settlement at Qaddum, near Nablus, in the heart of the West Bank, and well outside the guidelines of the Allon plan. On April 18 and 19 the Gush Emunim staged a mass march of 30,000 Zionists to support the Qaddum settlement and uphold, as they put it, "the inalienable right of every Jew to every part of the Land of Israel." The demonstrators marched from Beit El, north of Ramallah, through the center of the West Bank to Jericho, near the Jordan River.

Gush Emunim's settlement at Qaddum and their demonstra-

tion led to a discussion in the Cabinet of policy on settlement in the occupied areas. The government decided that the settlers at Qaddum would be allowed to remain for the time being, and would, at some unspecified future date, be offered an alternative site. The cabinet vigorously reaffirmed its commitment to settlement and announced that 5 new settlements will be started this year in the West Bank at a cost of \$150 million.

More significant than the actual decision were the public debates which surrounded it. The rancorous argument revealed that in addition to the Allon plan there are two other widely supported alternatives for settlement in the West Bank, and that each of the three plans has its adherents inside Rabin's cabinet.

What might be named the "Peres plan" calls for a strip of new Jewish settlements down the hilly spine of "Samaria," as the Zionists call the northern part of the West Bank, in addition to the "Allon plan settlements." Defense Minister Shimon Peres argues, "Everybody says we have to defend the Golan Heights because there are high mountains there. In Samaria there are high hills too. It is said that there are agricultural settlements at the foot of the Golan. True—but most of Israel's populace is located at the foot of the Samaria mountains. And even if one isn't fond of Tel Aviv, Haifa or Hadera—this is no reason to forsake them." [Continued on page 8]

RESOURCES

Available from the Palestine Solidarity Committee:

□ Schleifer, Abdullah; **THE FALL OF JERUSALEM**. Monthly Review Press, 1972; 247p., \$3.45 ppbk.

A fine combination of prose and journalism that places the 1967 war in the context of Arab and Palestinian resistance to Western and Israeli aggression. Looks at the international politics that preceded the 1967 war, and gives an eyewitness account by the writer of the fall of Jerusalem.

□ Stetler, Russell, ed.; **PALESTINE: THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT**. Ramparts Press, 1972; 297p., \$2.95 ppbk.

Useful articles on the nature of Israeli society and its relationship to U.S. imperialism. Selections from political documents of major Palestinian groups, interviews with Palestinians who experienced the "Black September" attack on their movement, and the "Diary of a Resistance Fighter." Missing is the resistance strategy following the Black September, 1970 massacre.

□ Boder, Arie, ed.; **THE OTHER ISRAEL: THE RADICAL CASE AGAINST ZIONISM**. Doubleday-Anchor, 1972; 264p., \$2.50 ppbk.

A collection of anti-Zionist analytical articles on the history, ideology, economic development and class structure of Israel and Zionism, by members of the Israeli Socialist Organization (Matzpen).

□ Leon, Abram, **THE JEWISH QUESTION: A MARXIST INTERPRETATION**, Pathfinder, 1970; 270p., \$2.95 ppbk.

Written during World War II by a Belgian Trotskyist. A serious attempt at Marxist analysis, its research and insights are useful, and serves as an antidote to Zionist interpretations of Jewish history.

□ Palestine Solidarity Committee; **ZIONISM IN PALESTINE: THE COLONIAL PROCESS**. 1976; 8p., 1-5 copies, \$.50; 6 or more, \$.25. A brief history of Zionism from its European origins to the present. Traces the relationship of Zionism to British and U.S. imperialism, and its oppression of the Palestinian people.

□ Jiryis, Sabri; **THE ARABS IN ISRAEL**. Monthly Review, 1976; 320 p., \$12.50 hdbk. Expanded and updated.

An account of the Palestinian-Arab people in Israel from 1948 to 1966. Documents land expropriation, deprivation of civil rights, and massacres in Israel. The author was an Arab lawyer in Israel.

□ Abu-Lughod, Ibrahim and Abu-Laban, Baha, eds.; **SETTLER REGIMES IN AFRICA AND THE ARAB WORLD: THE ILLUSION OF ENDURANCE**. Medina University Press International, 1974; 251p., \$4.95 ppbk.

Fifteen original essays that examine in depth the growth of Zionist ideology, the process of Zionist colonial settlement in Palestine, and the resulting Palestinian response. Other essays look at settler regimes in Africa and the South African apartheid ties with Zionists.

Turki, Fawaz; **THE DISINHERITED: JOURNAL OF A PALESTINIAN EXILE**. Monthly Review, 1972; 156p., \$2.95 ppbk.

A poignant description of the life of a Palestinian undergoing exile and oppression in the Arab host country. Personal aspect of book valuable.

□ **PALESTINE AND ZIONISM**. 1975; 44p., \$0.50.

Speeches given by the PLO at the 1975 UN General Assembly debate on Palestine. Also includes the text of five resolutions that were passed in 1974 and 1975 supporting Palestinian national rights and national liberation.

□ **TRANSCRIPT** of the meeting held on January 20, 1976, between four leaders of the PLO and 600 U.S. activists in New York City. Speech by Shafik al Hout from the PLO and an interesting 2-hour question and answer period. \$1.00.

MERIP REPORTS, published by the Middle East Research and Information Project. Write to them for a subscription. Back issues available

from the Palestine Solidarity Committee at \$0.75 each:

□ #24 Israeli **ECONOMIC POLICY IN THE OCCUPIED AREAS**

□ #28 **RESISTANCE IN PALESTINE**—traces the 50-year growth of the Palestinian resistance movement and examines the major issues in the movement today. Includes MERIP reading guide on the Middle East.

□ #33 **A PALESTINIAN STATE?** An independent analysis by an Arab writer supporting the current PLO program for a national authority on the West Bank and Gaza.

□ Childers, Erskine; **THE WORDLESS WISH: FROM CITIZENS TO REFUGEES**. Association of Arab-American University Graduates, 1973; 41p., \$1.00 ppbk.

□ Ruedy, John; **DYNAMICS OF LAND ALIENATION (IN PALESTINE)**; Abu-Lughod, Janet; **THE DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSFORMATION OF PALESTINE**. Association of Arab-American University Graduates, 1973; 44p., \$1.00 ppbk.

□ Hanegbi, Machover, Orr; **THE CLASS NATURE OF ISRAEL**. Israeli Socialist Organization, 1971; 24p., \$0.25.

□ Stevens, Richard P.; **ZIONISM, SOUTH AFRICA AND APARTHEID: THE PARADOXICAL TRIANGLE**. Palestine Liberation Organization Research Center, 1969; 37p., \$0.50.

□ **THE ABC OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, PART 1, 1896-1949**. The Arab Women's Information Committee; 70p., \$1.00.

□ **DAVID AND GOLIATH COLLABORATE IN AFRICA**. The Africa Research Group, 1969; 17p., \$0.25.

□ **PALESTINE LIVES**. Paredon Records, \$5.00. Sixteen songs in Arabic by Al Fateh members.

A check or money order for \$_____ is enclosed, payable to the Palestine Solidarity Committee.

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UP TO DATE

THREE PALESTINE WORKERS WERE BURNED TO DEATH in March as a result of a common Israeli practice of locking in workers at night. The charred remains of the workers were found in a burning Tel Aviv warehouse. The workers were unable to escape from their improvised living quarters because their employer had locked the doors from the outside.

Israeli employers lock in thousands of migrant Palestinian workers every night, the Israeli newspaper **Yediot Ahronet** admitted following the fire. The newspaper said that many Israeli employers attempt to avoid paying social security taxes by hiring workers without work permits who must be hidden from the police. Since Palestinians on the streets at night are frequently detained by police for questioning, employers often lock in workers, even if they have work permits, so as not to lose work time the following morning.

JORDAN HAS REDOUBLED ITS MILITARY PATROLS TO STOP COMMANDOS from crossing from the Jordanian East Bank to aid the Palestinian uprisings in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Jordanian security officials recently ordered the strengthening of army patrols along the Jordan River in response to several commando raids conducted from Jordanian territory.

AT THE UNITED NATIONS: The U.N. Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People issued a report calling for implementation of the Palestinians' right to return to their homes and their right to self-determination.

The Committee recommended that Palestinians displaced in 1967 be allowed to return to their homes immediately, and that while this process was under way, the UN, in cooperation with the states involved and with the PLO, should make arrangements for those exiled

between 1948 and 1967 to return home.

Furthermore, the Committee recommended that the Security Council establish a timetable for Israeli withdrawal from the areas occupied in 1967, with a deadline of June 1, 1977, and that the UN take over these territories and then transfer them to the PLO. In the interim, the Committee called upon the Security Council to ask Israel to establish no additional settlements, to withdraw from those already established, and to observe the Geneva Convention.

The Committee's report should come up for debate in the U.N. in June.

Also at the United Nations, the Security Council opened another debate on May 4 concerning Israeli policy in the 1967 occupied territories. Egypt requested the meeting in response to the continuing heavy Israeli repression on the West Bank. A similar Security Council debate held in March ended after the U.S. cast a veto blocking passage of a draft resolution condemning Israel policy.

ISRAEL AND A U.S. OIL FIRM ARE DEVELOPING A NEW OIL FIELD IN THE OCCUPIED SINAI. Geological surveys estimate that the field at El Tur in the southern Sinai has a greater potential than the 100,000-barrel-a-day Abu Rudeis oil fields that Israel returned to Egypt last fall as part of the Sinai Agreement.

AN ISRAELI - SOUTH AFRICAN - IRANIAN AXIS may be coalescing, according to an **Agence France Presse** report. South Africa's Vorster, just back from visiting Israel, will probably visit Iran in the near future. U.S. President Ford has also said that he might meet with Vorster sometime in the future. Vorster, head of the racist apartheid regime, said that such talks "could do a lot of good... for the free world in general of which we are a part."

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER'S GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: "THE SINAI ACCORDS AND MASSIVE U.S. AID." In a far ranging interview in the Israeli Newspaper **Ha'aretz** (April 30), Yitzhak Rabin assessed the two years he has served as Prime Minister, asserting, "I see the greatest achievements in

the wake of the interim agreement with Egypt [the Sinai Accords of September 1975] and its consequences in the framework in relations in the Arab world, reducing Egypt's military restrengthening, reducing the coordination capabilities of the Arab armies, reducing the USSR's influence on Egypt." Israel's other "greatest achievement" was the gaining of "unprecedented massive aid from the United States," which Rabin said will reach \$7.5 billion for the period between the October 1973 war and 1977.

RABBI MEIR KAHANE OF THE JEWISH DEFENSE LEAGUE LED A CLUB-SWINGING attack by right-wing Zionist students on Palestinian students at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem on May 19. The Palestinian students had been peacefully protesting Israeli repression on the West Bank.

Kahane later said: "What we have seen here is a clear and open indication of how the Arabs really feel about this state. The only real solution is to transfer all Arabs out of this country and liberated Arab lands [territories conquered in 1967 war] to other Arab countries."

ISRAEL IS AIDING THE ETHIOPIAN MILITARY'S attempts to crush the Eritrean liberation movement. Israel has supplied large quantities of small arms to the Addis Ababa military government and is also helping to train an Ethiopian light infantry unit called the "Flame Brigade" that will be ready for action in July, according to a May 18 **Washington Post** report. The **Voice of Palestine** reported on March 24 that "Israel had lent 40 military experts to Ethiopia under an agreement between Israel and the Ethiopian military."

ISRAEL HAS BEEN SUPPLYING THE FASCIST PHALANGE in Lebanon with M-16 rifles, according to a May 19 **Washington Post** story that cited high official Western sources. The sources said that the serial numbers of M-16 rifles used by the Phalange indicated that they were originally supplied by the U.S. to Israel. The sources said the weapons were probably transferred from Israeli boats onto Phalangist boats off the coast of Lebanon.

Letter From the West Bank

The following is an excerpt from a letter that was received recently from a clergyman in the West Bank.

I am writing these lines during curfew days when the sounds of gun shots disturb what otherwise would be the stillness of the dead city. The Israelis shoot machineguns into the air day and night during curfew to keep people out of sight and quiet, or to disperse demonstrations, but curiously enough the shots in the air injure people as they did in Bethany near Jerusalem. Four children were injured, one ten-year old boy killed.

All is quiet on the West Bank, the Israeli radio said at last. Curfew was imposed on some towns of the West Bank after demonstrations raged through most of the towns, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Nablus, Hebron, Jericho, Jenin, Tulkarm, . . . During the curfew, which is 23 or 24 hours a day, soldiers called men out of their homes, frightened them, kept them with hands up for some time in the cold nights, then let them go. I saw them do that to our neighbor, a 17 year old boy. After toying with our

neighbor for a short time and beating him with their guns, the shaken boy was allowed to return home.

The Israelis closed down schools in Ramallah, Nablus and Jericho, while the students of the other schools of the West Bank went on strike. Shop keepers closed up their shops as a sign of protest, but the Israeli soldiers broke the shops open, thus ending the strike.

And life is back to normal, the radio announcer said.

It is safer for school children to be in the streets than in the schools, my 15 year old son said, for in the streets children can run away when attacked by soldiers, but in schools the soldiers enter the premises and beat the children even in their class rooms.

It is not wise for the Israelis to say to the outside world or to themselves that the West Bank is quiet and the West Bankers are content. It is not wise for the Israelis to ignore the true dimensions of the crisis. It is not wise, nor is it more humane of the Israelis, not to allow the occupied people to laugh when they are happy and cry when they are sad.

Iron Gates Imprison Casbah

The Israeli Military Government has erected prison-like lockable gates around the Casbah, the ancient center of Nablus. The "hermetic gates," as the Israeli authorities call them, are manned by Israeli soldiers. They were installed for the admitted purpose of "crowd control."

During periods of uprising the Nablus Casbah is an area of frequent nationalist demonstrations. With its maze-like alleyways the Casbah provides very favorable conditions for protestors to elude troops and regroup, and very difficult conditions for Israeli soldiers on patrol, who often find themselves the target of a shower of stones and bottles.

On April 22 Israeli paratroopers guarded welders building the massive iron barriers. In the beginning of May, the Israeli army shut them for a prolonged time, cutting the Casbah off from the rest of the city, and causing the Casbah's population to experience shortages of food and medicine. The military government also shut off the electrical supply.

The "hermetic gates" have become a focal point of local protest and outrage. On May Day citizens uprooted one gate, and in subsequent demonstrations gates have also been pulled down temporarily. The Nablus city council and local leaders signed a letter demanding removal of the barriers.

West Bank [Con't. from page 6]

Interestingly, Peres professes himself undismayed by the election results in the West Bank; apparently he, unlike Rabin who was openly horrified at the tallies, was not planning on using the new officials to build a political bridge to Amman. Peres has recently been espousing a ten-year plan for development of Jewish settlement in the West Bank which makes no reference to ending the occupation; he clearly intends that Israel should keep the West Bank forever.

Still more extreme than the Peres plan is the position of those who, like Gush Emunim, espouse Israel settlement throughout the West Bank, at sites chosen by the Zionist settlers, not the government.

Rabin's government is now experiencing real instability over the question of the West Bank, and especially over the issue of Qaddum. The powerful bloc behind Peres and also the very conservative National Religious Party (NRP) are known to be sympathetic to the Gush Emunim. If either of these elements defected, the government would topple; of the 120 votes in Parliament, Rabin controls only 61, and 10 of these belong to the NRP.

Menachem Begin, leader of the right-wing opposition bloc LIKUD, threatened that if the Rabin government took a harsh stand against the settlers at Qaddum or displayed "defeatism" in regard to keeping the West Bank forever, he could count on 62 votes to bring down the government.

U.S. POSITION

The U.S. government has stated publicly many times since 1967 that it is opposed to Israeli settlements in the occupied areas and that it will not consider them a factor in a negotiated peace settlement. Even such staunch U.S. Zionists as Senator Jacob Javits concur in the official position; Javits is reported to have conveyed that position privately last April to Prime Minister Rabin, Defense Minister Peres and Foreign Minister Allon.

While discouraging more intensive settlement as a needless affront to the Arabs, the U.S. has never taken any action to prod

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Israel into withdrawing from the West Bank. The U.S., recently vetoed a UN resolution calling for termination of the occupation, and without lavish funds and awesome armament from the U.S., Israel would never have been able to keep its grip on the territories conquered in 1967. (It looks now as though U.S. aid will continue to flow to Israel at about the present rate of \$2.2 billion a year when the foreign aid bill is passed by Congress in June.)

There is no doubt whatever about the strategic commitment of the U.S. government to the strength and security of Israel. The effects of the present crisis in Israel on its relation to the U.S. government, however, is hard to predict. Peres has been reassuring the Israeli public that the U.S. government will come to accept the new settlements as it has in practice accepted the annexation of Jerusalem, despite its verbal protests.

Rabin, however, warns that 1977 will be a difficult year in U.S.-Israeli relations—but, he says, the alliance will endure.●