

Israel Pushes Zionization in Occupied Territories

SINCE launching the June 5 war of aggression against the Arab countries in 1967, Israel has driven nearly one million Palestinians and other Arabs out of the occupied Arab territories, sent an uninterrupted stream of Jews into these areas and pushed the Zionization scheme there in an attempt to perpetuate its occupation by a fait accompli and realize its expansionist Zionist ambitions.

U.N. Investigation Report

The U.N. Committee to Investigate Israeli Actions in Occupied Arab Territories pointed out in a report last October that Israeli policy was "designed to effect radical changes in the physical character and demographic composition of several areas of the territories under its occupation, by the deliberate eradication of a distinct Palestinian national identity." It also said: "The practice of deportation and the policy of demolition of houses, of establishment of Israeli settlements, of expropriation of Arab property and of denial of the right of return of the civilians who had fled those territories during and after the 1967 hostilities, are not only confirmed but are accentuated by the developments." The trilogy of the Israeli Zionist plan—aggression, occupation, Zionization—is confirmed by Israel's action in the occupied areas.

Paramilitary Settlements

Settlements established by Israel in the occupied territories are of a paramilitary nature, intended to consolidate Israeli occupation and serve as bridgeheads

for further aggression. There has been a steady increase in the area and number of the settlements. The Israeli radio reported on February 3 this year that of the 53 settlements built by Israel since 1967, 42 were in the occupied territories. Israeli agriculture minister Haim Gvati admitted on March 5 that six more settlements were under construction.

To build settlements and highways in pursuit of aggression, the Israeli authorities have arbitrarily expropriated and evicted the Arabs from their land in the occupied areas. They levelled their houses to the ground with bulldozers and put up dwellings for Jewish settlers or built "security" roads. The Jordanian paper *Amman Al-Massau* reported on July 1, 1972 that to establish three settlements in the Sinai Peninsula, the Israeli authorities forcibly evacuated 200 Arab families from the area to the Gaza Strip and the West Bank of the Jordan River, and another 300 Arab families were served notice to leave their land.

Zionization in Jerusalem

Zionization activities are even more unbridled in Jerusalem. The deported mayor of Jerusalem's Arab sector, Rouhi Khatib, said in a note last August that the Israelis had pulled down 595 Arab houses, shops, factories, schools and mosques in the city and that, when completed, 13 new sectors would include 35,000 dwellings to accommodate more than 122,000 Jews. The note said that after the completion of the new buildings, Jerusalem's Jewish population would almost quintuple the number of Arabs there.

The Israeli Zionists are still shouting for widening and accelerating these expansionist measures. On February 16 Israel's defence minister Moshe Dayan clamoured that the Jews had the right to settle in any part of what was once Palestine territory. He said: "We must widen our activities in the occupied areas and must adjust ourselves to a condition of no peace and no war. We must speed up the tempo of our activities and enlarge the map of our settlement, both urban and rural, in those areas."

Zionism — Background

Zionism is an imperialist tool for aggression and suppression of the Arab national-liberation movement. Representing the interests of a mere handful of Jewish capitalists, it has always been supported by imperialism.

Though the Jews had lived in Palestine in the years B.C., the vast majority left and wandered to various parts of the world around the 1st century A.D. when the Roman Empire invaded and occupied Palestine. The inhabitants of the Palestine region have been mainly Arabs since the 7th century A.D. Though Palestine was invaded and occupied by the Ottoman Empire after the 16th century, the inhabitants were still chiefly Arabs.

To meet the needs of imperialist colonial expansion, a handful of Jewish capitalists began beating the drums for Zionism towards the end of the 19th century. They made a big noise about setting up in Palestine a so-called "purely Jewish state" and did their utmost to incite Jews in different parts of the world to emigrate to Palestine and drive out the Arabs who had lived there for generations. Led by Theodor Herzl, Jewish capitalists convened the first Zionist congress in Basle, Switzerland, in 1897 and set up the "World Zionist Organization."

Zionism cannot represent the interests of the labouring Jewish people in the slightest. Scattered over Europe and the Americas, the great majority were gradually assimilated into different nationalities as a result of long years of working and living with the local people. The very small number of Jews who remained in Palestine over the centuries always lived peacefully with the Arab people.

As soon as Zionism appeared on the scene, it was supported by the imperialists. The hub of communication lines linking Asia, Africa and Europe, Palestine holds a vital position in the Middle East. The imperialists wanted to use the hand of Zionism to extend their influence into Palestine.

Britain occupied Palestine in World War I and issued the so-called "Balfour Declaration" which undertook to support "the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people" and which was backed by the United States. Since that time large groups of Jews around the world have gone to Palestine. After World War II, the number of Jews living in Palestine had risen from some 50,000 at the end of World

War I to 600,000-700,000 in 1948. Brushing aside strong opposition from the Arab countries and people, the imperialists manipulated the United Nations in 1947 to adopt a so-called "resolution" on the partition of Palestine to form a Jewish state and an Arab state. In May 1948, the Zionist leading clique unilaterally proclaimed the establishment of the artificially created "State of Israel."

Emigration of Soviet Jews Soars

Instigated and supported by imperialism after it was created, the "State of Israel" launched three wars of aggression against the Arab countries — in 1948, 1956 and 1967. These wars resulted in the Israeli Zionists seizing some 70,000 square kilometres of land from Palestine and Arab countries, including Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, Syria's Golan Heights, and the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank of the Jordan River. Israeli aggression caused the displacement of large numbers of Palestinians and forced them to become refugees.

The superpowers, however, still have continued to back and egg on the Israeli aggressors. A steady stream of money and arms pours into Israel from the United States. The Soviet revisionist social-imperialists give Israel one big group after another of manpower, including specialists. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union in 1972 separately issued decrees stipulating that Soviet Jews would be granted exit permits only after they had paid for their education. Under U.S. pressure, however, the Soviet revisionist leading clique not long ago assured the United States that it had suspended collecting this tax from Jews wishing to leave the country, thus speeding up their emigration to Israel in large numbers.

According to the Jewish Agency, 41,898 Soviet Jews arrived in Israel in the first four months of 1973. Another report said a total of 10,330 had immigrated to Israel between 1961 and 1970. There has been a sharp increase, however, since 1971. The total number of Jewish immigrants to Israel last year was 56,000 with 32,000 coming from the Soviet Union. Israeli deputy prime minister Yigal Allon said recently: "More than 50,000 Soviet immigrants have come to Israel during the past two years, and a similar number is expected this year." "Israel might have to absorb up to one million Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union during the next 10 years," he added.

Strong Discontent in Arab World

The Soviet revisionists' action in stepping up the emigration of Jews to Israel has aroused strong discontent and opposition in the Arab world. Mahmoud Khalidi, Director of the Office of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Damascus, pointed out: "There is no difference between the Soviet emigration to Israel and the U.S. supply of munitions and economic aid to Israel." "The supply of manpower by the Soviet Union to Israel has strengthened Israel's expansion abroad," he said.

A report in the May 14 Beirut weekly *Al Usbouh Al Arabi* said: "The Soviet Jewish emigrants are being housed in settlements in northern Israel and in the (occupied) Golan Heights." It quoted Israeli politician Ben-Gurion as saying recently: "At present there are no borders for Israel. The Israeli borders will be stipulated when another 6 million Jews have emigrated to Israel." The report pointed out: "This shows that Israel not only has no intention to withdraw from the

occupied Arab lands, but also aims at occupying more Arab lands to meet the increasing numbers of Jewish emigrants."

In a May 6 editorial, the Kuwaiti paper *Daily News* pointed out that the Soviet Union is a more dangerous enemy because, while professing friendship for the Arabs, it has opened its doors to the emigration of a new Jewish army, mostly well-educated and experienced personnel, into occupied Palestine.