

President Carter's Camp David summit is the culmination of U.S. imperialism's attempt to split and weaken the Arab national liberation movement and to impose a neocolonialist version of a peace settlement, initiated by Henry Kissinger's "step-by-step" diplomacy following the 1973 war. This policy has prolonged the conflict, enabled Israel to invade southern Lebanon — with the attendant genocidal results — caused increased oppression and bloodshed by Israel in the West Bank and Gaza, escalated the dangerous and costly arms race and undermined the quality of living and endangered the lives of all peoples in the area. The victors are the oil corporations; the losers are the peoples of the Middle East.

The separate agreements signed by Carter, President Sadat of Egypt and Prime Minister Begin of Israel are not a step toward peace because they do not resolve any of the basic issues. Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, self-determination for the Palestinian Arab people and the establishment of secure and recognized boundaries within which all states can live in peace, remain to be realized.

Events over the last five years have proven conclusively that the conflict cannot be resolved outside the framework of the Geneva Conference, co-chaired by the Soviet Union and the U.S. In Security Council Resolution 338, which called for such a conference, the UN recognized that peace can be achieved only with the participation of all parties to the conflict — especially the Palestine Liberation Organization and Syria.

In the joint communique signed in October 1977 by the U.S. and the Soviet Union, both countries agreed on the basic principles that should govern

This statement was issued in September by Henry Winston, national chairman, and Gus Hall, general secretary on behalf of the Central Committee, CPUSA.

October-November 1978

Camp David: Framework for Conflict

Central Committee,
CPUSA

the peace process: recognition of the central role of the UN, of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinians, and of the need for a comprehensive, as opposed to separate, solution of the conflict, that will address the interests of all parties. The Carter Administration's actions in defiance of the commune can only be characterized as hypocritical.

By excluding certain countries and the PLO, and by holding the meeting under the aegis of U.S. imperialism rather than of the UN, Carter and his disciples demonstrated their desire not for a just and lasting peace, but for a peace that would benefit imperialism, Zionism and Arab reaction. And Carter has followed the usual pattern of reactionary politicians, including Hitler, by trying to cover his actions with anticommunism.

The agreements do not provide for Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory, but for a "legalized" occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights. They do not call for removal of the colonialist Israeli settlements, even in Sinai. They do not provide for the security of any state in the region.

For years, Israel has established itself as U.S. imperialism's gendarme in the Middle East. The latest agreements are dangerous for the Israeli people because they legalize the occupation, keep Begin in power and maintain the war economy. Now, U.S. imperialism is using Egypt's economic and financial difficulties (including an \$18 billion foreign debt) — brought about by Sadat's "open door" policy — to force Egypt into submission to imperialism's plans. But Sadat's accommodation to imperialism and Zionism has met only rejection in the Arab world. The heroic people of the West Bank are demonstrating their rejection through a general strike. The PLO, Syria, Algeria, Libya and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen have severed their ties with Egypt.

The almost unanimous support from Democrats and Republicans for Carter's "victory" demonstrates even further the bankruptcy of the two-party system. When the basic interests of U.S. imperialism are at stake, the two parties of big business fall in line. U.S. imperialism is attempting to reverse the course of developments in the Middle East, to the advantage of the oil monopolies, the armaments industry and the Pentagon. It is fighting for strategic ground from which to attack the Soviet Union and split the anti-imperialist movement. The interests of the working people, however, are just the

opposite.

Although Administration officials have denied it, indications are that the U.S. has backed the summit agreements with provisions for increased U.S. military interference in the Middle East. Begin has already stated that the U.S. will build two military airfields at a cost of \$1 billion, and has invited the Pentagon to open naval bases in Israel. Congress has just passed a bill that allocates \$1.7 billion in mostly military aid to Egypt, Israel, and Jordan "to help promote peace in the Middle East," as some newspapers have reported.

The stationing of U.S. military technicians and personnel, not to speak of U.S. military bases, in the center of the conflict can only threaten world peace. Such actions are in direct opposition to detente and the relaxation of tensions, and reflect the cold-war influence of Zbigniew Brzezinski, Carter's national security advisor on U.S. foreign policy. U.S. imperialism's historic objective of using the Middle East as a base for military aggression against the national liberation movements, the independent states and the Soviet Union is dramatically exposed in the summit agreements.

The \$1 billion price tag for the two airfields, and the added military aid package, are an outrage in the face of the high unemployment here at home and the dire financial needs of our cities. These plans must be met with the most resolute opposition by the working people of our country. We will have no more Vietnams!

Peace cannot be achieved without total and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied territory. Occupation of "strategic pockets" on the West Bank — called for in the agreements — is still occupation and an obstacle to peace. Giving the Palestinians, in Carter's words, "the right to participate in determining their future" is not self-determination. Only the Palestinians themselves can determine their future, and only the PLO can speak for them. The imperative of peace through justice requires recognition of their right to self-determination, including their right to an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza and their right to return to their homeland. Any other proposal leads only to conflict.

These agreements only heighten tension and will not lead to peace. The progressive forces in the Middle East, in the first place the Palestinians, will not stand for these agreements. Even Jordan and

Saudi Arabia have rejected them. The progressive forces in the world will not condone them. It is more urgent than ever for the progressive and peace-loving forces in the U.S. to expose Carter's maneuvering, to force him to abrogate these agreements, and to demand that the U.S. work with the Soviet Union for the immediate implementation of

the joint U.S.-Soviet communique of October 1977.

NO U.S. MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST!

IMPLEMENT THE U.S.-SOVIET COMMUNIQUE!

RECONVENE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE!