

Colonialist policy of Israeli aggressors

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It has for long been an urgent problem to establish a fair and lasting peace in the Middle East in accordance with the Security Council and UN General Assembly resolutions, requiring the withdrawal of Israeli troops from occupied Arab territories, the restoration of the rights of the Palestinian Arab people and the elimination of the other consequences of Israel's aggression. A solution is blocked by Tel-Aviv, which persists in its expansionist aim of imposing a 'peace from positions of strength.'

Addressing students in Haifa in February, Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir said the Middle-East crisis should be resolved by 'unconditional direct negotiations.' But among the 'preliminary conditions' which the Israeli rulers thus rejected out of hand they also list the Security Council resolution of November 22, 1967. More, the Israeli leaders declare that in all circumstances and by any means they intend to retain control of at least part of the overrun territory. In a *Time* interview, Golda Meir said: 'The Arabs have no way to regain Jerusalem but to fight for it and triumph in this war.' And of the Golan Heights in Syria: 'I do not imagine that anyone in Israel is so insane as to agree to give them up.' As for Egypt's Sharm El Sheikh area, she described it as 'a vital passage for us to Africa and Asia.'

Some Israeli leaders suggest 'concessions' to Jordan, which they not unreasonably regard as the weakest link in the 'Arab front.' Their proposal is to give back the west bank. That is the substance of the Allon Plan, named for the Israeli Premier's deputy. The plan envisages Israeli settlements and military posts all along the river (in this regard, it is already being implemented). Then, should the territory be eventually 'returned,' it will be cut off from Jordan and its annexation will be a fait accompli.

But even the mere mention of a 'concession,' however spurious it may be, is vigorously opposed by Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, leader of the Israeli militarists. Addressing a meeting of the 'settlers organization' of the ruling Israeli Labor Party, he said he did not agree with the Allon Plan and saw the ideal solution in keeping the situation as it is, i.e., in occupation. And speaking before the World Council of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, he amplified: 'The western bank, which I prefer to call Yahouda and Shamroun, is our homeland.'

The idea, therefore, is to maintain the state of 'no peace, no war,' which, in effect, signifies the continued occupation of Arab lands.

In line with this strategy, Tel-Aviv is determined to frustrate any initiative that may pave the way to an accommodation of the Middle East crisis. And there is no more conclusive proof of this than the posture of the Israeli spokesman at the special UN Security Council discussion at Egypt's request in summer 1973.

The Israeli rulers do not shrink from the foulest of crimes to stoke up the tension. This, indeed, is the motive behind such acts of international brigandage as the shooting down of a Libyan airliner, raiding Palestine refugee camps in Al-Badawi and on the Al-Barid river, and the cold-blooded murder of prominent Palestinian resistance leaders in Beirut.

As the Israeli rulers see it, the Arab world is incapable of any effective action at present, and unable to settle the issue either by military or diplomatic means.

The brazenness of the aggressors feeds on the military, political, economic and financial aid of imperialist countries, notably the United States. Suffice it to recall the \$1,100 million which Israel received from the USA in the past two years. The flow of U.S. arms, too, continues. Golda Meir's visit to Washington last February culminated in a U.S. promise of another 48 Phantoms and Skyhawks. The idea is to assure Israel's military superiority, which Tel-Aviv and its imperialist backers euphemistically style 'balance of strength in the Middle East.'

Tel-Aviv hopes that its policy of 'ready-made realities' will with the passage of time sanctify Israel's final possession of the vast territories occupied in 1967.* The central point of this policy is to build Zionist settlements in the occupied land on the plea of religious and historical rights, the compulsion of having safe borders, and other specious reasons. Dayan, who is sometimes called king of the occupied territories, said in so many words: 'Nowadays, I do not think there is a special importance to the security aspect of settlement. But I consider settlement . . . of extreme importance . . . in creating the political realities.' And he added: 'We . . . would not give up any place where we may establish a settlement or a security settlement post.'

Israel is digging deeper into the Arab lands it overran in 1967. The expropriation follows a definite pattern: first, a piece of land is declared a military zone, then it is fenced off, and then begins the building and settlement.

Answering a question by the Communist member of Knesset, Tawfiq Toubi, on February 26, 1973, Moshe Dayan said the confiscation of 40,000 dounums** of land belonging to the village of Toubas in the region of Nablus was motivated by 'security reasons.' The peasants defied the order and planted their crops,

*In the 1967 war Israel occupied the west bank of the Jordan, the Golan Heights in Syria and Egypt's Sinai Peninsula - an area totalling 66,642 sq. km., that is, triple Israel's own area before the war.

**Dounum = 0.1 hectare.

which were promptly destroyed by poison. Subsequently, a new Zionist settlement, Nahal Geetit, was established there.

Another example. One morning last December, the people of the village of Eskaria in the Bethlehem governorship woke up to find that the Israeli colonialists of the neighboring settlement of Kfar Asyoun had bulldozed 1,500 dounums planted to grapes and other fruit, and eventually annexed the land.

Things like the Eskaria seizure, though said to be committed by the settlers off their own bat, are really inspired by the occupation authorities. Speaking before colonists in the Arab town of Hebron, Moshe Dayan declared: 'I am your bulldozer. Go to Hebron and everything will be all right.'

The Israelization of the Arab part of Jerusalem is in high gear. The houses of the local people are torn down, whole blocks are demolished. The scene is being set for the Zionist plan of settling the city's Arab part with 100,000 Jewish immigrants by 1975. This is in flagrant violation of the UN resolution that measures aimed at 'changing the character'—read annexation—of the Arab part of Jerusalem, are to be reversed.

In the region of Khan Ahmer, east of Jerusalem, the occupation authorities seized 70,000 dounums of land are preparing to establish a town, Ma'ale Adoum. In December 1972 they decided to set up a 'territorial center' on the outskirts of Rafah in execution of Dayan's project of a big port south of Gaza as a staging point for colonialist expansion in the north of Sinai.

Many of the Israeli settlements established on captured and confiscated land are often administrated by members of Nahal* and similar organizations.

Construction sites are selected for their strategic location.** The eight settlements on the outskirts of Rafah, for example, are like a belt that cuts off the Gaza Strip from Egypt.

All this is part of the traditional Zionist policy of decimating the Arab population of Palestine, and now also of the newly-occupied areas, and settling the territory with Jewish immigrants. To 'encourage' the Arabs to move out, the Israelis employ economic pressure, political intimidation, and terrorism. Nearly half the 2,000,000 Arab population of Palestine was ousted in this manner in 1948, and another 400,000 together with thousands of Egyptians and Syrians in the captured lands in 1967.

The Israeli rulers deny the lawful rights of the Palestinian Arab people recorded in the resolutions of many international bodies, and notably their right to political self-determination. Golda Meir, for example, said she did not recognize Palestinians as 'legal subjects,' and added: 'Up to 1967 we had not heard of them at all.' Asked by a British TV correspondent if the Palestinians would some

*Noar Haloutsi Lohem, a paramilitary youth organization of so-called soldier-farmers in border settlements.

**The Israeli aggressors draw on past experience: the fortified settlements they had established along the border of West Jordan, in the Gaza area and Sinai were used as jump-off points in the 1967 war.

day have their own state, she said: 'There is no place for this, and it is not necessary.' And asked if she was ready to sit down at one table with the Palestinians and talk terms, she replied: 'No, because we have no negotiations with the Palestinians, nor have we any proposals for them.' On March 16, 1972, the Knesset passed a decision that 'the historical right of the Jewish people in Palestine is indisputable.'

In pursuance of this 'historical right,' Israel intends to liquidate the Arab Palestinian people as a people, whether by demolishing their national economy and culture or by physical annihilation. By way of an illustration of these intentions here is Menahim Beegen, leader of Hairut, a Rightist Israeli party. Addressing a punitive unit of the Israeli army, he said: 'You, Israelis, should never have mercy in your hearts when you kill your enemies. You should never be kind to them, so that we may undermine the so-called Arab culture.'

But the spirit of the Arab people is unbroken. If their struggle is in a somewhat lower key of late, this is due first of all to the difficulties and complications that surfaced in the Arab world chiefly following the liquidation of the resistance movement's bases in Jordan.*

The only political organization really active in the two zones of Jordan—the occupied and unoccupied—is the Jordanian Communist Party. Working underground, it is putting out regular clandestine editions of its newspaper, *Al-Watan*, and the politico-theoretical journal, *Al-Hakika*, and also special publications when necessary. In our publications we summon the people to resist the Israeli invaders, and expose the crimes of the occupation forces. Party activists distribute leaflets printed underground, write patriotic slogans on house walls, and organize demonstrations and strikes. This is reported in the bourgeois press. 'Whereas the authorities have succeeded in destroying the infrastructure of all the fedayin organizations,' writes Eric Roleau of *Le Monde*, 'the Jordanian Communist Party, though forced underground, appears to be growing, judging from the journals, the theoretical magazine and the leaflets which it distributes in profusion.'

Our Party's political course, confirmed by the real development of events, coupled with its loyalty to the people and its tenacity in struggle, has won it the confidence of the masses, has added to its prestige, and has turned it into a force that the enemy is compelled to reckon with.

The Party has always advocated unity of the fighters against the Israeli invaders. In the wake of the June aggression in 1967, it played a decisive part in organizing committees of national guidance, and later the popular resistance front. Both these organizations are nuclei for the more representative and stable national front that we are now trying to form.**

*See Naim Ashhab in *WMR*, May 1972.

**See Salem Khalil, *WMR*, June 1973.

Our Party seeks close cooperation with the patriotic forces in other occupied territories, particularly the Marxist organization in Gaza, and the united national front led by that Marxist organization in the Gaza Strip. Of late, the Palestine resistance groups have begun to understand that the struggle must be fought in the framework of a broad patriotic alliance, combining armed resistance with political work. New ground for unity is appearing in the battle against the Israeli invaders.
