



LAND DAY IN PALESTINE

«... No social order ever perishes before all the productive forces for which there is room has developed; and new higher relations of production in it have developed; and new higher relations of production never appear before the material conditions of their existence have matured in the womb, of the old society. »

Karl Marx « Preface to a Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy »

New Israeli laws providing for the requisitioning and expropriating of Arab lands for « development purposes » sparked what turned out to be the largest and most comprehensive uprising in Occupied Palestine (Galilee, West Bank and Gaza). March 30 — « The Day of the Land » was an event of historic proportions. The Palestinian people responded to the call of a general strike that did not limit itself to a protest against the new wave of land expropriations by the Israeli authorities. The event was described by Reuters in the following, « It was clear the occasion was being used to air general grievances of Israeli Arabs, now numbering about half a million. »

The Israeli government is pushing ahead with plans to requisition 600 hectares (1,500 acres) of Arab-owned land and 400 hectares (1,000 acres) of Jewish land in the area around Nazareth. The basic aim behind this move according to the Israeli explanations is a long-range development plan, including «new houses for both Jews and Arabs». After all, who would be opposed to such « innocent » schemes?

The February 29 decision of the Israeli Council of Ministers to requisition Arab lands took place as the uprising of the Palestinians of the West Bank was entering its second month, already having reached a new zenith in the course of anti-Zionist struggle. (see article on the uprising)

In addition, Israeli authorities do not

hide the fact that this decision is part of a larger plan to expropriate thousands of hectares in the regions of : Al-Nakab, Al-Muthalath (the village of Kafr Kassem), the Upper Galilee, and in the closed region number « 90 ». In fact the latter region which is used by the Ministry of Defense for military manoeuvres, training etc., was attacked by a large Israeli military contingent armed and equipped with various weapons including tanks and helicopters. The Israelis moved swiftly as they encircled the village of Arab Al-Sawad as each unit proceeded with its assigned tasks : a) check points were set up around the town; b) check points within the town were set up to oversee the movements within the houses; c) some units were to prevent the women and children from attacking the security forces as they carried out their tasks of defending the state; d) another unit was to insure that the women of the town would remain in the spots designated for them; e) another unit planted mines and explosives in the two houses which were to be destroyed... the tanks and helicopters were to oversee the operation; f) the two houses were at last demolished signaling the beginning of the end for the village of « Arab Al-Sawad ». The inhabitants were forcefully dispersed, their lands were taken away in accordance with Defense Ministry decisions.

In the above context, the decision of the Council of Ministers introduced a new vocabulary, new euphemisms. «Development» and not «Jewification» is the aim of expropriation. They also described their new plan as « the settling of Galilee in the framework of a development plan. » However, « Davar », the Israeli newspaper, described the matter as « Jewification and not settling of Galilee » (March 1, 1976).

Why? Ever since the creation of the Israeli state in 1948, the Palestinians who remained within the boundaries of the new state were concentrated in the Upper Galilee region. The estimated

Arab population in Israel has grown to about half a million as they continue to be concentrated in that region. The Israeli authorities have been expressing concern and alarm over this fact. Such a large concentration of Palestinian Arabs in one region (about 80% of the population in Galilee) in Israeli opinion poses a threat to the Jewish nature of the Zionist state. To remedy the situation, this new Jewification — « Development » plan has been invoked so as to introduce an influx of Jewish immigrations to Galilee to insure the Zionist composition of the state.

PALESTINIANS RESPOND :

Our masses were not deceived by the newly invoked schemes. They calmly but resolutely organized a mass campaign resulting in the convening of a people's mass assembly through which they declared their firm opposition to any land expropriations. On March 6, 1976 another meeting was held in Nazareth where representatives of most Arab towns and villages participated. They decided to call for a general strike on March 30 which henceforth has become known as « The Day of the Land », a new landmark of the Palestinian struggle for liberation. With this declaration our masses proclaimed and ascertained their Palestinian identity. With this as a background « The Day of the Land » promised to be a truly all Palestinian affair where all Palestinians will celebrate their Palestinian land.

THE REVOLT

All newspaper and press agencies reported that March 30, the « Day of the Land », witnessed the largest mass uprising in Occupied Palestine since 1948. The Palestinians by the thousands went to the streets armed with sticks, stones, Molotov bombs and most importantly a heart burning with the desire for Freedom and Liberation. They engaged the enemy forces who were armed to the teeth in direct confrontations. Many were injured and some were martyred

Of course the enemy troops sustained severe losses also, but most importantly they were surprised or even astonished by the anger and determination of the Palestinian people. One such soldier expressed his fears as he wept, « They tried to burn me alive. » The demonstrators had surrounded his car and tried to burn it. In a more revealing remark the chief of one of the police precincts, Joseph Salameh, described his astonishment as follows, « I never anticipated that matters would reach to this point. They attacked us with rocks the size of water-melons, and with torches soaked with gasoline with which they started fires... Do you know that I was under the impression that they actually wanted to kill us. »

The Israeli authorities desperately tried to prevent the Palestinians from taking part in the revolt. They issued curfews, brought border guards to assist the « security » forces, but the people paid no heed. « The Day of the Land » was their rendez-vous with destiny — the land, that no sacrifice was too great for its liberation.

Details of the revolt are well known by now, but what is important to emphasize is that the uprising has not ended. In Galilee, Nazareth, Haifa, Ramallah, Jinceen, Nablus, Jerusalem and all over the spirit of constructive revolt prevails. Our masses have openly declared their opposition to the existence of the Zionist racist entity — Israel. Instead they have made public their solutions, namely the establishment of a Democratic solution, that resolves and encompasses the interests and rights of the

In analysing the results of the elections in the occupied territories, prudence requires that we postpone evaluation until we have had ample time to critically evaluate the results. It is true that a large number of the eligible voters did participate in the elections. However it is also a fact that Israel pressured the Palestinians into voting by threatening to close their shops or to revoke their licence to operate. In addition they were threatened to be denied travel permits etc. On another level, the Israelis tried to present themselves to the world as the most « democratic » conquerers — their proof being the permitting of the conquered to elect their own local representatives.

In Bulletin 19-20 (« National Authority » and « Regional Autonomy » — New Zionist Schemes p. 3) we wrote of the elections : « Israel plans

« DAY OF THE LAND » . MASS RALLY

Jews, Muslims, and Christians in the framework of a progressive Democratic Palestine.

With the passage of time, our people began to bury our most recent martyrs who fell on the altar of revolution. As they conducted the funerals, their sadness and grief were transformed into anger as they shouted slogans against Zionist colonization of the Palestinian land.

These events have caused many people to warn Israel that it must solve its « Palestinian problem » if it wishes to survive as a state. Former occupation Commander of Nablus and the Gaza Strip, Zvi Al Peleg, wrote in the Tel Aviv newspaper « Yediot Aharonat », « The stones thrown will not drive Israel out of the area. But perhaps they will shatter some illusions about our being the wises and best conquerers in history ». Indeed the illusion has now been discovered by many, but the most important fact remains: that liberation will still require a long arduous struggle, a veritable people's movement armed with the theory of people's war translated through revolutionizing practice leading to a Democratic Palestine.

Our masses' revolt is like a time-bomb in the womb of Israeli society. As it acquires a broader perspective it poses itself as the genesis of a new order, a social system that is the negation of the racist Zionist entity. Briefly, Occupied Palestine is pregnant with a new social order — A Democratic Palestine.

March 30, « The Day of the Land » has become a Palestinian Feast that we will celebrate every year. In turn, it was decided to make of this day an international protest against the racist Zionist occupation of Palestine. On this occasion the people's organizations and unions organized an informational campaign that culminated in a mass-rally in Beirut.

The rally itself was a clear expression of the necessity of a united stand in face of the Zionist enemy in Palestine and the Imperialist-Reactionary on-slaught in Lebanon. *The unity expressed at the rally, in spite of the existing political differences in the Palestinian resistance movement, was a clear warning to all forces that in Lebanon the unity of the Palestinian rank in alliance with the Progressive Lebanese movement is a solid fact. This united stand was our gift to our masses in Occupied Palestine on the occasion of «The Day of the Land»*

The rally commenced with the Lebanese and Palestinian national anthems and as Yasser Arafat entered the auditorium he embraced George Habash. This famous embrace was met with great approval as the masses attending the rally shouted patriotic slogans. In addition to the presence of both Palestinian leaders, Abou Ayyed of Fateh and Ahmad Al-Khatib, the leader of the Lebanese Arab Army, were present. Several speeches were delivered of which we enclose some excerpts.

George Habash delivered a short address which he commenced in the following manner :

The revolutionary brother Abou Ammar (Arafat) ;

Dear revolutionary brothers :

« Our Palestinian Arab masses, our Arab masses... On this day, the Day of the Land, we declare before you, before history and the entire world that the land of Palestine is our land, Jerusalem is our Jerusalem, that Galilee is our Galilee, the Aksa Mosque is our Mosque and the Church of Nativity is our Church... We declare before you that our people who have fought for more than 50 years against Zionist colonization, will continue to struggle against all enemy plots... in defense of our Arab Palestine.

On the Day of the Land there is only one statement for the Palestinian Revolution : Liberation of every centimeter of the Palestinian soil and the continuation of the revolution until such is accomplished. On this occasion when the blood of our people is being shed... the Palestinian Revolution has only one statement to be presented by Abou Ammar.

... Reliance on the masses first of all and the guns they carry coupled with the national unity that knows when and how to unite, and knows how to control our internal differences so as to remain strong in the confrontation with the Zionist enemy;... The adapting of a clear political line that rejects Zionism, Israel, Imperialism and its plots and which rejects all capitulation-

ist settlements, that rejects all settlements that provide for the continuation of the Zionist entity on our land... Armed with these weapons : the masses, the gun, national unity, a clear and correct political line, the unity of the Palestinian and Lebanese and Arab struggle, and our alliance with the forces of progress the world over... We will regain our homeland.. *Finally, the Palestinian Revolution when confronted with difficult circumstances against attacks that seek to terminate it or encircle it, then in spite of any differences concerning any political position, the Palestinian Revolution stands as one.* »

Abou Ammar (Arafat) in his turn addressed the rally :

« The plots against our revolution are increasing and multiplying but they will be smashed on the rock of the unity between the brave soldier of the Lebanese Arab Army and the courageous Palestinian militant... It is true that these plots are increasing, but in the name of these cuts (young Fidayeen), in the name of the generation of the future... In the name of the militants, all our women, men and the old, in the name of the gun of the Palestinian militant and the Lebanese Arab Army... these plots will be crushed on the rock of Palestinian national unity as they are being crushed every day on the

WEST BANK ELECTIONS

to indicate that the elected officials have emerged as a result of the people's demands through the legality of the ballot box. In Israel's viewpoint the elected officials are the de jure representatives of the people, and not the resistance movement. »

The convening of the second round of the elections on April 12, 76, resulted in the election of 148 members to the membership of various local municipalities. These elections in Israeli strategy aim to prepare the groundwork for the realization of the Peres Scheme of « Regional Autonomy » (see above cited article — Bulletin 19-20). The basic aim of both steps was summarized by Israeli Defense Minister Peres on April 6, 76 : ... It would be unwise not to learn from past mistakes in our relations with the Arabs, hence it is important to clarify that coexistence is

deemed desirable by both sides. (Arabs and Israelis) »

However Peres was quick to warn the newly elected members : « All those who seek to take advantage of their new positions and to use them as political platforms forwarding nationalistic or leftist ideas will be regarded as a challenge and not a danger to Israel. » The coup de grace was finally delivered by the Israeli Broadcast of April 14, 76 : « The election results are not binding to the military administrator. According to military regulations he can appoint anyone he deems necessary. It is also within his jurisdiction to appoint people to the municipalities that were not elected, and could even appoint him as the head of the municipality. » Israeli « Liberal Colonial Democracy » has at last uncovered its mask.

Now let us look at the actual re-

sults. Most of the newly elected officials have been described as pro PLO. However only days after the termination of these elections many of them « have decided to restore order and quiet to their respective areas, because these demonstrations make it impossible to introduce the municipal reforms that they had promised. They also threaten the economic well being of the West Bank. In addition the students should prepare themselves for their examinations. » (Agence de Presse France)

Furthermore, other elected officials have expressed their opposition to the military operations of the resistance movement and have expressed their endorsement of U.N. Security Council Resolution No. 242. Clearly the new mayor of Hebron and others have expressed opposition to armed struggle, opposition to the continuation of the people's uprising, and in turn have endors-

ed the resolution that the PLO has refused. All this has been done under the guise of being pro PLO.

The steps taken by such people will for a period of time be conducted under the protection of the formal and legal recognition by : 1) The occupation authorities; 2) the PLO. Under such a cover they can proceed to better « Israeli Palestinian cooperation. »

Briefly, we should recognize that under colonial rule the only form of « democracy » that can exist is colonial in nature. More than ever, prudence and a thorough understanding are required so as to uncover the actual intentions of Israeli plans. The masses' uprising has proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that there is only one way for liberation — Armed struggle to liberate all of Palestine and establish a democratic solution.

« DAY OF THE LAND »
MASS RALLY

rock of Palestinian-Lebanese unity...

We shall not give up one centimeter of Palestine... We shall fight a long-term People's War to recover our land... America yesterday declared that the 6th Fleet is within a day's sailing of Lebanon... It is welcome. We shall sink it here and make of the country another Vietnam.

Abou Ayyad :

« No to tutelage and No to containment. »

He emphasized the need of continuing armed struggle for the liberation of every centimeter of Palestine and the establishment of a democratic state. He also emphasized national unity as a pre-requisite for victory.

« From the land of Lebanon we declare to the world, that it will not find a single militant and revolutionary from the midst of our people who is willing to give up his land and people. This revolution will continue to preserve its free and spangling banner, and will not be pressured by any attempts of tutelage over it or containment. Its only slogan and banner is the gun. »

Ahmad Al-Khatib, the leader of the Lebanese Arab Army declared before all, that his army will continue on the road to revolution :

« Not only to liberate Lebanon, but to liberate our sacred Palestine and every centimeter of our Arab homeland. »

Moreover, he directed a closing remark to the masses of Occupied Palestine :

« We are fighting the agents and collaborators of Zionism, however, you have the honor of having borne and resisted Zionism. We are fighting with Faith and weapons, and you are fighting with the weapon of Faith. You are armed with rocks of the earth, may they strike the Zionists as bombs on their heads. »

The termination of the mass rally was in itself a new beginning. The Palestinian Resistance and the Lebanese Progressive Movement have firmly declared that there is no force that can divide them in their present endeavor to terminate the confessional basis of Lebanese society.

One last peripheral point is worth mentioning. In the aftermath of the mass-rally the ordinary simple people of the camps as they talked about the rally were quick to point out the forces that were totally absent from it : Hawatmeh's Democratic Front, and the Syrian backed Saika were not there which prompted an old man in one of the camps to ponder — Why... ?



SADAT: SERVANT OF IMPERIALISM

« There must be something rotten in the very core of a social system which increases its wealth without diminishing its misery, and increases in crime even more rapidly than in numbers. »

Karl Marx

It is neither surprising nor ironic when Secretary of State Henry Kissinger vehemently supports U.S. intentions to sell arms to Egypt. He proudly described U.S. intentions as *« compensation and a show of Goodwill for Egyptian moderation »*. He then alluded that such sales would further enable the U.S. to increase its hegemony over the affairs of the Middle East region. In turn, Donald Rumsfeld, U.S. Secretary of Defense, indicated that the continued improvement in U.S.-Egyptian relations will better the possibilities for *« peace »* in the Middle East. Moreover, Rumsfeld jubilently pointed out that *« Egypt has shown clear indications of diminishing its imports and trade with the Soviet Union, and has embarked on a road of reliance on the U.S. »*

Sadat's reliance on the U.S. and the capitalist market system has helped to further deform the structural basis of the Egyptian economy. Such developments are dialectically connected with the ascent of the right, the negation of socialism and the accentuation of capitalist *« virtues »*. (See Bulletin No. 19-20 *« Sadat, the Sinai Accords — On the Road to Total Capitulation »*).

To elucidate this dialectical relationship it is imperative that we explain Egypt's present economic crisis in connection with Sadat's capitulationist strategy.

TRIP OF DESPERATION

On February 21 of this year, Sadat undertook a trip covering Saudi Ara-

bia, Oman, Abu Dhabi, Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait. The topics he discussed were financial aid, Middle East peace efforts; tension in Egyptian-Syrian relations; Egyptian-Saudi relations. Basically, however, the purpose of his trip was the consolidation and mobilization of the Arab right wing, the tool through which Imperialism hopes to strike the Palestinian resistance movement and the Arab Liberation movement as a whole. Previously Sadat had declared that the year 1976, is the *« year of the Palestinians »*. Since he anticipates the unfolding of a *« total »* settlement of the Palestinian question, it is necessary that he exerts efforts to unify the Arab right wing so as to thwart the Palestinian revolution.

To the dismay of the U.S., Sadat, Israel and Arab reactionaries, certain obstacles prevent the success of their goal i.e., the elimination of the forces of the Arab revolution. First, the Palestinian resistance movement not only has defeated the fascist plot of the Phanganists, but they continue to grow both in Lebanon and in the occupied territories. Second, the Sinai Accords have been limited to Egypt. No other Arab countries have reached such *« accords »*. This has resulted in the isolation of the Sadat regime from the Arab world, especially since the disclosure of the secret measures of the Sinai Accords, which has been simultaneously carried out by an ever increasing U.S. economic and military aid to Israel. Third, Sadat is facing deep internal problems manifested through either economic crisis or growing unrest and opposition to his policies.

With these obstacles clearly in mind a desperate double-pronged campaign

has been invoked to save Sadat : A) spreading capitulation to a broader Arab

level; and, B) provide Sadat with an emerging economic transfusion to prevent the collapse of the economy. This strategy is to be translated through the unification of the Arab right wing forces in a single united front so as to hide the U.S.-Sadat manoeuvres. This is to be coupled with economic aid whose aim is to prevent or quell a mass uprising.

With this in mind, Sadat embarked upon his tour of the Arab oil states. His goal was to amass about \$4 billion in aid. His trip however was a blunder as he was only able to get a total of \$750 billion. He still has hopes of developing closer ties with the oil producing nations (Arab) and in particular Saudi Arabia. He is anxious to develop such strong ties with the latter because it is the *« most important oil producer and a firm ally of the U.S. »*. Maintaining good relations with Saudi Arabia would enhance Sadat's prestige in the Arab World and would also strengthen his position vis-a-vis the U.S. » (An Nahar — Arab Report Vo. 7, No. 9, 1 March 1976).

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF EGYPT'S CRISIS

Egypt is a country where the dichotomy between rich and poor is crystal clear. It has 500 big millionaires who are nothing but parasites gobbling up Egypt's wealth, engaging in fast money, making schemes and always neglecting the building of a sound economic base upon which a prosperous economy can be managed and planned. In the meantime, long queues of people are formed everyday to purchase basic necessities