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EMBASSY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
Press and Information Section

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

TRUONG CHINH'S MESSAGE TO YASSER ARAFAT
(22nd September, 1982)

I am **deeply** shocked and indignant on learning that, in recent days, the Israeli Zionist aggressors, backed and encouraged by the U.S. imperialists, have brazenly sent troops to occupy West Beirut. Most seriously, on the night of Sept. 17, they savagely massacred more than 3,000 civilians, most of them elderly people, women and children.

I strongly condemn this utterly barbarous crime of the Israeli Zionists. This is a calculated act of genocide masterminded by the United States and Israel aimed at blunting the fighting will of the Palestinian people, destroying the resistance of the Palestinian patriotic forces, in brazen violation of international law and arrogantly challenging the conscience of progressive mankind.

This crime has laid bare the United States hypocrisy, its perfidious scheme in putting forth the so-called "Peace Plan" in the Middle East and the real objective of the U.S. envoys' trips allegedly to arrange a solution to the Lebanese situation. These trips actually aim to collaborate with the Israeli aggressors in imposing a solution in the Middle East contrary to the funda-

mental national rights of the Palestinians and other Arab peoples.

The U.S. imperialists and Israeli Zicnists must immediately end all acts of interference and aggression against the Palestinians, and other Arab peoples. First of all, Israel must immediately end its acts of suppression and massacre against the Palestinians, and withdraw immediately, completely and unconditionally its troops from Beirut and other places in Lebanon and respect the independence and national sovereignty of this country.

Once again, I wish to reaffirm the unswerving militant solidarity of the people and Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam with the Palestinian people and their vigorous support to the latter in their struggle against the U.S. imperialists and Israeli Zionists to regain their sacred national rights. I believe that the heroic Palestinian people, under the leadership of the P.L.O, their sole authentic representative, would overcome all difficulties and trials and win glorious victory./.
