

THE ARAB

Published by the Arab League Office,
1/11 Hay Hill, London, W.1

Vol 4 No. 39
April, 1970



مجلس جامعة الدول العربية بلندن

EDITORIAL

THE BARBAROUS RAIDS

The crime Israel committed when its U.S.-made Phantom aircraft bombed an elementary school in Sharqiyah Governorate, killing about 30 pupils, adds to the record of Israeli crimes another which is the ugliest. The world did not need such a crime to add to its knowledge of Israel's aggressive nature and the criminal motives on which its policy is based—motives which go as far as brutally attacking school children. Israel's criminal record is full of such ugly crimes. The Canal towns—Ismailia and Port Said—have experienced successive attacks on civilian establishments; a number of civilians have been killed. The memory of Israel's crime against the workers of a factory at Abu Za'bal and the subsequent raids on civilians in various villages is still fresh. It is no coincidence that this ugly crime should come with the anniversary of the Dayr Yasin massacre the Israeli gangs committed in 1948. This crime, a link in a long chain, comes to confirm the fact that crime constitutes the core of Israeli thinking, and that crime represents the method for which Israel sees no alternative to achieve its expansionist ambitions and impose the accomplished fact and surrender on the Arabs. . . .

This crime confirms the fact that Israel, having given up hope of achieving its objects even by way of large-scale aggression, does not refrain from committing the ugliest and basest crimes. It does not hesitate to use its U.S.-made bombs and aircraft on innocent children. This crime confirms the fact that the world is today facing a new type of criminal mentality which shows no regard for any human values, a mentality driven by desperation to ruin all the values and meaning on

which humanity relies to ensure its survival.

Nor is it a coincidence that this crime should take place in these circumstances, when, 34 months after its 1967 aggression, Israel feels unable to achieve its aims, and only a few days after the fresh threats made by the Israel Defence Minister, Moshe Dayan—threats in which Dayan drew attention to the necessity of operations over Egyptian lands.

This crime gives a defined significance to the threats which Moshe Dayan made when he hinted at U.S. intervention on the pretext that the U.S.A. would not permit intervention in the area. . . .

Having failed to move the Arabs

from their stand—despite all methods of pressure and aggression—Israel still thinks that the way to do this is to disrupt the internal front, even by way of crime, or by way of using crime to make the Egyptian armed forces—under the influence of anger—ignore their set military plan and embark upon operations which do not serve any military purpose. What is certain is the fact that this crime will not pass, like all other Israeli crimes. Confrontation of this crime and the deterrent reply to it must come within the military plan and must serve the principal aim—liberation of the occupied land and a lesson to the aggressors which will reply to all the crimes committed against humanity. . . .



TWELVE HUNDRED ATTEND C.A.A.B.U. MEETING TO DISCUSS A SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINE PROBLEM

The well-attended meetings organised by the Council for the Advancement of Arab British Understanding have now become a regular institution of London political life. The latest meeting, held in the Central Hall, Westminster, on Wednesday, April 5th, was well attended by at least twelve hundred people, including many personalities from the diplomatic, political and literary worlds. The chairman was Mr. Ian Gilmour, M.P., and the main speakers were Dr. Yusuf Sayegh, who came specially from Beirut, Mlle. Ania Francos, who came over from Paris, and Mr. Anthony Nutting. The title of the meeting was "A Solution to the Palestine Problem".

Mr. Gilmour outlined the main objects of the Council for the Advancement of Arab British Understanding, which is to create friendship and closer understanding between the Arab and British peoples, and said that CAABU as such did not have a particular policy on any issue, but was a platform for various viewpoints. He welcomed Dr. Yusuf Sayegh, already well-known to his audience for his writings on the Palestine question.

Dr. Sayegh outlined the history of the Palestinians since the Balfour

Declaration, and explained the basis for the policy of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which embraces nearly all of the Palestine resistance organisations, for a multi-racial single state of Palestine as the only basis for a peaceful settlement, a Palestine in which Arab, Jew and Christian can live side by side in peace and harmony. In conclusion he said:

"... To truly understand the Palestine problem, you have to see it in context, in historical perspective, inside a system of values based on justice as its foundation stone. The Zionist/Israeli position is based on another system of values and uses another system of logic in explaining itself. It is the logic of the sword, of the accomplished fact of conquest.

"... Whereas they want to exist as a community in our land through destroying our community, we want to reinstate our community in its homeland but without destroying theirs. Their vision is of two communities mutually exclusive, mutually negatory; ours is of two mutually accommodating communities, complementing each other, co-operating in a new society."

Mlle. Francos, author of a book on "The Palestinians" is in favour of Dr.

Sayegh's proposals. She does not think that the solution will be found in the near future and points out that the problem is not a Jewish-Arab problem but "a colonial problem like Algeria or South Africa". In her speech she said:

"... I have come here only to address you as a personal witness, to tell you of my personal evolution which led me to support that proposal which is expressed in the Palestinians' resistance: towards an undenominational, democratic State in Palestine, as a peaceful solution in the Middle East.

"... because of my origins*, I started writing about the liberation struggles that went on in the world: Cuba, Algiers, Africa. For it was as a member of a community which had been oppressed and persecuted for centuries that I could understand the people who fought.

"That's how I left for the Middle East in 1966. That's how I discovered, from Gaza to Jericho, from Golan to the slums of Beirut, the existence of a People, the Palestinians. . . .

"... Families which, before '48, even though they were poor fellahs, lived in decent conditions, had to cram together among lice, fleas and bugs, without any commodity. But the worst was the humiliation. The fact that one had to live like a beggar for twenty years, without anything to do from night to morn, except dreaming about return."

"... Only a Unitarian, democratic State can be the solution. . . ."

Winding up the excellent meeting, Anthony Nutting summarised the proposals that had been made, and gave an inspiring call to the meeting in these words:

"... Because the story of Palestine has been attended by so much human tragedy, because it is clear that the Palestinians, resurgent as never before since the six-day war took all their country from them, are determined to fight on until they have liberated their homeland, and because they fight for restitution and not for revenge, I commend to you their cause and their solution in the name of logic, of compassion and of justice."

* Mlle. Francos is Jewish.



◀ Another victim of Israeli raids.

EXTRACTS FROM AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S PRESS STATEMENT ON THE TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PRISONERS IN ISRAEL

Published in April, 1970

PREAMBLE

It is with the deepest regret that Amnesty International presents the following report containing *prima facie* evidence of the serious maltreatment of Arab prisoners under interrogation in Israel.

Appendix 1. A summary of three case histories.

Mr. A.—from Gaza

Town or place of residence:

Jerash Camp, Jordan.

Age:

30.

Date of arrest:

6th June, 1967.

Place(s) of detention:

ATLIT.

Charges, and/or trial:

Nil.

Period of interrogation and/or detention:

2 months—released August 1967.

Nature of allegations: After being taken prisoner on the second day of the June war, complainant was kept in solitary confinement for a week. At the end of this period he was beaten up by a group of soldiers, and on the following day taken to a cell where he was strapped to a table and flogged. During this time he was told to confess that he was a guerilla and asked for information concerning guerillas generally. He was returned to his cell with four broken teeth. On the following day the procedure was repeated; but in addition he was stood up against

a wall, when his chest was slashed with a knife which inflicted seven parallel wounds and at the same time he had one arm badly cut. His back and hands were burnt with lighted cigarettes. (Photographs of injuries and medical reports available.)

Mr. B.—from NABLUS—taxi-driver

Town or place of residence:

Amman—Jordan.

Age:

40.

Date of arrest:

19th September, 1967.

Place(s) of detention:

NABLUS-RAMLE-

SARAFAND and BEIT LID.

Charges and/or trial:

Nil.

Nature of allegations: Arrested at 23.00 in his house and taken immediately to Nablus police station, whereupon he was beaten up by six officers and subjected to electric shocks to various parts of his body until he lost consciousness at about 4.00. On coming round he was given a glass of urine to drink; when he refused to do so he was again beaten unconscious. Complainant was later transferred to Sarafand where he was subjected to intensive interrogation concerning guerillas which, on occasions, entailed the following treatment:

(i) being handcuffed with his hands behind his back and having his feet shackled, then suspended naked by the wrists from a window bar. In this position he was whipped all over his body,

a small rubber stick being used exclusively on the genitals.

(ii) being placed in the centre of a small room into which opened two doors opposite each other. One arm would be tied to one open door and the other to the opposite open door. Four soldiers would then rapidly open and shut the doors many times in succession.

Miss D.—from NABLUS—student

Town or place of residence:

Amman—Jordan.

Age:

18.

Date of arrest:

14th March, 1969.

Place(s) of detention:

NABLUS.

Period of interrogation and/or detention:

43 days—released 26th April, 1969.

Charges and/or trial:

Nil.

Nature of allegations: Arrested with her mother and sister and segregated. Interrogated at Nablus police station. Asked whether she knew a certain girl, on her replying "No" she was grabbed by the hair by the chief interrogator and thrown on the floor where she was beaten with a metal rod and also kicked and punched. Subsequently she was beaten in front of her mother, who was accused of hiding guerillas in her house. When her mother pleaded with the interrogator to stop beating her daughter, she was struck on the forehead with the rod which cut it open.

ALGERIA

Soviet Aid to technical training. A mining and metallurgical institute to be built in Annabah to Soviet design will house 1,500 students and occupy an area of 35 ha. Construction will begin this year. A higher veterinary academy will soon be built with Soviet assistance near Algiers. An oil and gas institute and a college for the textile industry have already been built.

Customs agreements with Tunisia. Three Algerian-Tunisian customs agreements were initialled in Algiers on 31st March. The first concerns mutual assistance in the prevention, prosecution and suppression of customs infractions; the second refers to the jointly controlled offices and posts at the Algerian-Tunisian frontier; and the third deals with international road transport.

Gas Tankers. The American company El Paso Natural Gas has placed an order with the French shipyards France-Gironde for two liquefied gas transporters. The ships are intended to carry the natural gas bought in Algeria by El Paso; this gas will be liquefied at Arzew. The ships can carry 120,000 cu. m. of gas and will be built at Dunkirk. They are scheduled for delivery in November 1974 and December 1975. The order is worth about 100,000,000 dollars.

Agricultural Conference. A conference of workers in the State sector of agriculture opened in Algiers on 1st April. Some 650 delegates, representing over 2,000 self-administered farms and co-operatives run by veterans of the national-liberation war, met to map out the tasks of their farms and co-operatives under the four-year development plan for 1970-1973. The self-administered farms account for less than 16 per cent of all the cultivated land in Algeria but they yield up to 60 per cent of the country's revenues from agriculture. Under the four-year plan by 1973 farms of the self-administered sector must produce as much as 8,800,000 centners of grain (out of the 24,300,000 centners garnered on all agricultural lands), 7,200,000 hectolitres of wine (out of the total of 800,000 hectolitres) and 6,000,000 centners of vegetables (out of the total of 10,000,000 centners). The conference ended on the 3rd April. The proposed solutions to the problems studied by the committees on supply, agricultural material, marketing, and work-organi-

ARAB AFFAIRS

sation and credit, are to be implemented within the framework of the four-year plan.

JORDAN

The economy in 1969. (Central Bank Governor's press conference on the 5th April.) In 1969 imports increased by 14 per cent and exports by four per cent. The State Budget increased to 87,000,000 dinars in 1969, an increase of nine per cent. Local Treasury revenues increased to 31,500,000 dinars, an increase of 20 per cent. Private sector bank deposits increased five per cent, to 45,200,000 dinars. Currency in circulation increased 12 per cent to 71,300,000 dinars. Bank deposits increased 10.17 per cent to 45,400,000 dinars.

Bank Loans. The Industrial and real estate Bank of Libya has met requests for loans amounting to more than £22,250,000 (Libyan) during the past three months. The policy to increase loans for commercial and industrial purposes aimed at improving the national economy.

Tripoli-Khartoum air service. A new air route has been inaugurated between Khartoum and Tripoli. An aircraft of the Sudan Airways arrived in Tripoli on 5th April.

Aid from U.A.R. and Libya. (Premier's Press Conference of 2nd April.) The U.A.R. will increase the number of its experts operating in Southern Yemen and has promised economic aid. Libya will give Southern Yemen £6,500,000 (Libyan) as a gift to build schools, medical centres and hospitals and to meet the Budget deficit.

SUDAN

Health agreement with Eastern Germany. An agreement with Eastern Germany on further health service co-operation in 1970/71 was signed in Khartoum on 5th April by the Sudanese Minister of Health, Dr. Maurice Sidrah, and the East German Deputy Minister of Health, State Secretary Prof. Dr. Mecklinger. It provides for an increased exchange of health specialists, information and technical journals.

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Trade with Hungary. A Hungarian market research delegation led by

Sandor Czeitler, Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade, arrived home from the U.A.R. on 21st March. Sandor Czeitler said that the purpose of the visit was to increase the import of "non-traditional articles", in accordance with a decision by the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development, and to purchase goods in public demand. The delegation inquired about textiles, food and consumer goods—there is a possibility that 10,000 domestic refrigerators will be bought this year; there are also good chances of buying larger quantities of carpets, knitwear and other textiles and of sub-tropical fruit, tinned fish, beer and preserved vegetables. Trade between Hungary and the U.A.R. doubled last year and in 1970 the 1969 figure may be exceeded by 20-30 per cent.

Baghdad Peace Conference. On 9th April a group of 60 international personalities attended the meeting of the Arab and Asian peace committee's conference. The proceedings included a speech by President Bakr, who called for the unity of the forces fighting world imperialism and its "base", Israel, and praised the support of the friendly States, led by the U.S.S.R. Other speakers were the delegates of the U.A.R., the U.S.S.R., the Vietnam Democratic Republic and the South Vietnam Provisional Revolutionary Government, the Iraqi Minister of Justice, the Secretary General of the World Council of Peace and a Palestine representative.

The killing of Egyptian school children. The U.A.R. Chief Delegate to the United Nations on the 8th April, 1970, sent a letter to U.N. Secretary-General, U Thant, on the criminal attack made by Israel with U.S.-made Phantoms, which led to the death of 30 students from the Bahr al Baqar elementary school in Sharqiyah Province. The U.A.R. Chief Delegate said that Israel's claim that its attack had been against a military target could be understood if Israel meant Egyptian children were predestined to become defenders of their land against aggressors. He said the aggression committed by Israel had led to the martyrdom and wounding of dozens of students and civilians. He asked that copies of his letter should be distributed as an official U.N. and Security Council document.

Excerpts from the Sudanese Revolution Command Council's statement on

Israeli Sharqiyah Province Air Raid.

This continued killing of the innocent, including young children, and the intentional bombing of civilian targets . . . is a new sign that Israel, and the colonialist forces that support her, are attempting by means of these treacherous and terrorist acts to break down the steadfastness of the Arab people, having failed to achieve this end by military acts. They are also attempting to use a different method of psychological war, which they are waging against the Arab nation and its progressive regimes. These are methods which have already failed to achieve Israel's objectives, and they will fail in the future, thanks to the vigilance and alertness of the fighting Arab people. We are confident that all respectable forces in the world are on the side of the Arab people in their condemnation of and resistance to these savage acts, which Israel is committing by using the weapons of destruction supplied by the U.S.A. to kill the innocent sons of our nation, which is determined to struggle until victory no matter how numerous the methods of the enemy are.

Excerpt from Nasser's Speech of 11th April to Citizens Battle Committee.

"Both our Egyptian people and our Arab nation are required to achieve victory in this battle, not because victory is our revenge for the events of 1967, but because victory is our only way of achieving all the precious values I have spoken of—the values of the future, independence, freedom and political and social development.

"This is the picture of the battle we are now fighting in all simplicity and sincerity. We are not fighting to invade, but are fighting to liberate. We are not fighting to expand, but to protect. We are not fighting to create new borders for our homeland, but are fighting because our borders—the most ancient known to mankind and history—are now exposed to those who want to desecrate them, and to over-run our heritage and our hopes. We are not fighting to annihilate, but are fighting so that we shall not be annihilated."

Mrs. McKay's Sudan Visit. Mrs. Margaret McKay, M.P., left Khartoum for Cairo at the end of her three-day visit to Sudan, during which she had meetings with officials, organisations and unions. She proclaimed her support for the Arab cause and drew attention to the publicity aspect in the current

situation since Israel was making great efforts to attract international sympathy. She expressed great pleasure at the success of her visit to Sudan.

Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries. Bahrain, Qatar, Abu Dhabi and Dubai have appealed to join the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (O.A.P.E.C.). With the membership of these Amirates, the Organisation will control the export of 13,000,000 barrels of oil a day, that is 55 per cent of world oil exports. The O.A.P.E.C. Secretary-General, Suhayl as-Sa'dawi, said on the 11th April: The O.A.P.E.C. Ministerial Council will meet in May to consider the applications of Bahrain, Qatar, Abu Dhabi and Dubai. The Organisation's transport fleet will start its work at the beginning of next year. The work of the fleet will initially be limited to the transport of oil from the member countries to the consumer markets.

Oil co-operation with Yemen and Southern Yemen. Complete equipment for two geo-physical teams was loaded on board ship in Algiers on 11th April for Aden and Hudaydah. This expedition is being made under the agreements signed by Algeria with the two Yemens in 1968 and 1969, dealing with the creation of two joint oil companies in which the Algerian national oil company, Sonatrach, holds 50 per cent and 49 per cent of the shares. Algerian engineers and technicians are preparing to go to the two Yemens to start seismic prospecting in the Hudaydah and Hadramaut regions.

IRAQ

Oil refinery from Czechoslovakia. A contract for the delivery by Czechoslovakia of an oil refinery was signed in Baghdad on 9th April. The refinery is to be built near Basrah and the contract is worth 62,500,000 dollars. The refinery can produce more than 3,000,000 tons of refined oil a year. Part of the cost of the refinery's equipment will be met through exports of Iraqi oil to Czechoslovakia.

Agreement with French motor vehicle company. A protocol covering the manufacture and assembly of French Saviem vehicles in Iraq was signed on the 13th April by the Industry Minister, Taha al-Jazrawi, and Castio, the representative of the French company. The factory will be built in the Iskandariyah area and will have an estimated annual output of 2,000 trucks and

pick-ups. The General Organisation for Industrial Engineering will administer the factory.

Trade with Sudan. The first Iraqi-Sudanese trade agreement was signed in Khartoum on 11th April by the Iraqi Economic Minister, Fakhri Qadduri, and his Sudanese counterpart, Ahmed Sulayman. The agreement provides for trade between the two countries to be increased to £10,000,000 sterling in the next five years and to £1,500,000 in 1970-71. Sudan will import crude oil from the Iraq National Oil Company as soon as the latter begins exporting in 1972, and Iraq will import Sudanese commodities. It was also agreed to open an Iraqi trade centre in Khartoum. The trade agreement with Sudan provides for an increase of trade in the next five years to a value of 10,000,000 Iraqi dinars. The two countries will facilitate customs procedures and provide preferential rates on exchanged goods. They will establish trade centres in each other's country, facilitate the exchange of experts and technicians and carry out joint projects. Lists of goods to be traded in 1970 and 1971 were prepared. Iraq will export dates, oil products, crude sulphur and industrial goods, and Sudan will export hides, foodstuffs, raw materials and industrial products.

LIBYA

Libyan-Sudanese-U.A.R. communications operation. A statement issued by the joint Sudanese-Libyan-U.A.R. Communications and Transport Committee, which met in Cairo from 5th to 11th April, announced that it had discussed the agenda prepared for the consolidation of all means of overland, sea, river and air communications, as well as radio and telecommunications and postal services. There had been complete agreement that the utilisation of all kinds of high standard communications was essential to link the three States closely for fruitful and effective co-operation.

Mrs. Margaret McKay's Tour. Mrs. Margaret McKay, the British Labour Member of Parliament, visited Bahr al-Baqar elementary school and saw the results of the Israeli aggression on innocent children. Mrs. McKay made a statement to the press conference. She spoke about the Israeli attacks on Arab territory and Israel's treatment of the Arab inhabitants in occupied territory.

ROUND & THE ARAB UNIT AR REPL



◀ *The Tower of Cairo*

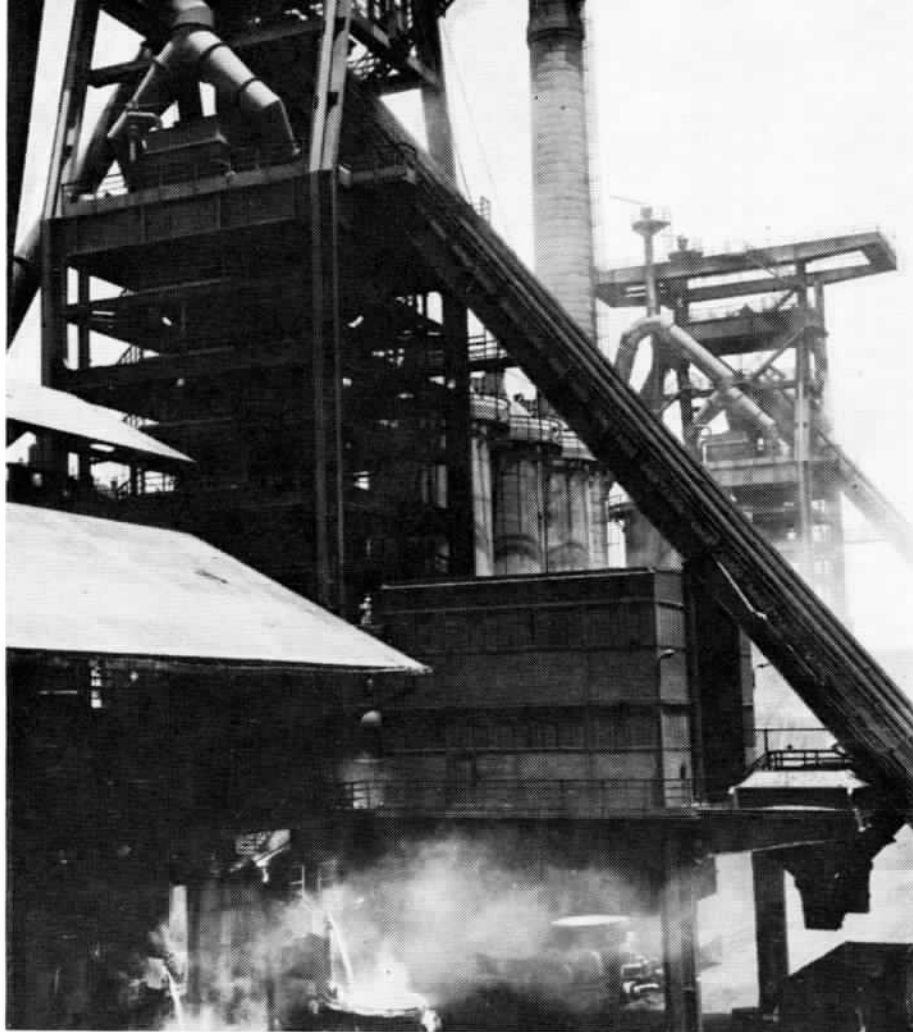
▼ *An Egyptian Kindergarten*



**& ABOUT
B WORLD:
TED
AB
UBLIC**

Iron and Steel Mill ▶

*Semiramis & Shepherd
Hotels in Cairo* ▼



DEBATE ON THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

A full-scale debate on the situation in the Middle East took place in the House of Commons on April 13th last, a debate in which more than a dozen M.P.s took part and many more were unable to get in although the debate lasted 6½ hours. For the first time since the June war, those members who spoke sympathetically to the Arab standpoint in the conflict were heard with respect and with a minimum of the heckling to which they have been submitted in previous debates. For the first time too the attitude of the vociferous pro-Israeli lobby was defensive and some of Israel's most fervent supporters bowed their heads when the bombing of Egyptian school-children and factory workers was mentioned.

There is only room for a few extracts of some of the most interesting speeches in the debate.

One of the earliest speakers was *Mr. Christopher Mayhew, M.P.*, for Woolwich East. He said, in part:

"Earlier this year I was talking to a number of highly articulate professional middle-class Arab refugees in East Jerusalem. What they say is very helpful in understanding the feelings of the Palestinians. They are the people who, when the war came in 1967, suddenly found themselves able to travel over the whole of Israel for the first time for over 20 years. They at once got into their cars or on to a bus to visit their old homes. They described what it felt like after 20 years to go back to the homes where they were born, where they knew everyone, where they knew all their Arab neighbours, where they were brought up, where their father and grandfather before them had been brought up.

"The really formidable obstacles to the kind of settlement both Front Benches are talking about come from the Israeli side. They have rejected, or only very conditionally accepted, the Security Council resolution; they have rejected the Russian interpretation, the French interpretation, the American peace proposals put forward by Mr. Rogers last year; they have rejected the whole conception that the great Powers should put forward peace proposals. The whole conception that the

Security Council or the United Nations should have anything to do with a settlement has been rejected. At present, they are not only declining to withdraw from occupied territories, they are actually building permanent settlements in occupied territories, including—most recently and provocatively—a permanent Jewish settlement in Hebron. In Jerusalem, there are big new public buildings going up, big blocks of flats for Jewish people in Arab Jerusalem. This is very provocative from a number of points of view.

"I was particularly struck, when in Israel, with the discovery that the Israeli chiefs of staff have never even been asked to make an appreciation of what Israel's security would be if she withdrew to her pre-1967 frontiers. Anyone with knowledge of defence planning knows that every conceivable eventuality has a contingency plan attached to it. It is a source of much concern that so firmly attached are the Israelis to not withdrawing that such an appreciation has not been made. . . .

"... they are still under the influence of last year's catastrophic delivery of 50 Phantoms by the United States of America.

"That contract was a real disaster. Israel was already the dominant military Power. She was totally dominant in the air and dominant on land, occupying her neighbour's territory. The Phantoms were the first aggressive weapon in the Middle East. We should notice that the Russians have not given the Egyptians rockets or bombers to attack Tel Aviv, but the United States have introduced into the Middle East the aggressive weapons which the Israelis are using to bomb the outskirts of Cairo. . . .

"Above all, these Phantoms enable the Israelis to defy the world. This enables the Israelis to reject international peace proposals. They are able to do so because the Americans have given them the means. Then he added, . . .

"My conclusion is that, as things stand, unless some new factors are injected into the situation there is no prospect whatsoever of a peaceful settlement. . . . I suggest two new factors which should be injected into the

situation. First we have to try and make withdrawal easier for Israel. This is the key. Even if she withdrew it would be hard enough for Nasser and Hussain to deliver their parts of the bargain. If they do not withdraw, there will be no prospect whatsoever of a settlement. I should like my Rt. Hon. friends to consider that Israel should be offered a new type of security system on her pre-1967 frontiers if and when she withdraws.

Mr. Dennis Walters, M.P. for Westbury said, "The Hon. Gentleman (*Mr. Mayhew*) dealt at length at the beginning of his speech with the problems and the feelings of the Palestinian Arabs who have been dispossessed from their homes. I have spoken on a number of occasions in the House on this subject. I should have been delighted to do so again today; because I believe that, unless the rights of the Palestinians and the deep sense of grievance felt by them and shared throughout the Arab world are understood it is impossible even to begin to understand the essence of the problem in the Middle East and the possibility of achieving a settlement that will stick. . . ."

In his speech, *Mr. Ian Gilmour* said that "what was most striking about the first three speeches in the Debate, was that the Foreign Secretary had much the least of the three to say about how a settlement should be reached. The reason for this was that the Foreign Secretary relied almost entirely on piety and was very short on practicality, and this was because H.M. Government had done virtually nothing in the Middle East over the last few months. Great Britain had been a passenger in the Four Power talks and had made very little positive contribution."

Mr. Ian Gilmour, M.P. for Norfolk Central, presented seven pieces of evidence to prove that the ruling clique in Israel does not want peace.

These are:

1. Israel's refusal to allow the new refugees to return to the West Bank.
2. Israel's purported annexation of Jerusalem.
3. The refusal, in effect, of Israel to accept the famous 1967 Resolution.
4. The establishment of 30 settlements in the occupied territories.

5. Israel's behaviour in the occupied territories.
6. No conciliatory gesture of any kind presented by Israel.
7. Israel's denial of the existence of the Palestinians as a people.

Mr. Ian Gilmour said in his speech: "That simple fact is that the ruling clique in Israel today—I am not talking about the Israeli people as a whole; I cannot judge them and I dare say that they are quite different—does not want peace on any terms that it can conceivably get in present circumstances. I will produce detailed evidence for that in a moment. . . .

"The first piece of evidence that indicates that since 1967 Israel has not wanted peace is her refusal to allow the new refugees to return to the West Bank. Those of us who have been to Jordan and the West Bank and have seen the refugee camps in Jordan—just across the river in 1967, but now, because of the shelling, further back—and who have seen the appalling misery in which so many hundreds of thousands of people are made to live because of the grossly inhumane refusal of the Israeli Government to allow the new refugees to return must come to the conclusion that here is a Government who are concerned more with keeping these people out of their homes than with making peace with its neighbours.

"The second item is Israel's purported annexation of Jerusalem—a large part of Jerusalem was Israeli anyway—the Arab city of Jerusalem. There could hardly be a more provocative act in the face of almost united world opinion, and it would certainly encourage any Arab to believe that Israel was not interested in peace. . . .

"The third point is the refusal, in effect, of Israel to accept the famous 1967 resolution. The Foreign Secretary read out a form of words from Mr. Eban accepting the 1967 resolution, which was only a form of words. Dr. Jarring was obstructed at every point. The Israelis have never shown any desire to carry out that resolution. Indeed, when Mrs. Meir formed her last Cabinet, mention of the 1967 resolution had to be left out of her letter of intent.

"The fourth item, which has even been mentioned by such a friend and supporter of Israel as the Leader of the Liberal Party, is the establishment of 30 settlements in the occupied territories. That could hardly be a more

aggressive and provocative thing to do, particularly when we remember that this is the same tactic that Israel carried out after 1948 when she was occupying land which did not belong to her, and which eventually solidified into permanent frontiers." *Mr. Ian Gilmour* continued: "Those pieces of evidence seem to me to be far more important since they concern what Israel does rather than what Israel says. We would do better to judge Israel by what she does than by what she says."

Sir Dingle Foot, M.P. for Ipswich said in his speech: "One has to consider what it is that the leaders of Israel want. Inevitably, the question presents itself: do they intend to withdraw from the occupied territories? This was referred to by the Hon. Member for Norfolk, Central, (Mr. Gilmour), and I shall direct attention to a specific example, the city of Hebron, 20 miles south of Jerusalem. This is a holy city to both Jews and Muslims. It was captured in the six-day war. It is now proposed that, although it is part of the occupied territories, it should receive a new Israeli Jewish colony of 250 families. . . .

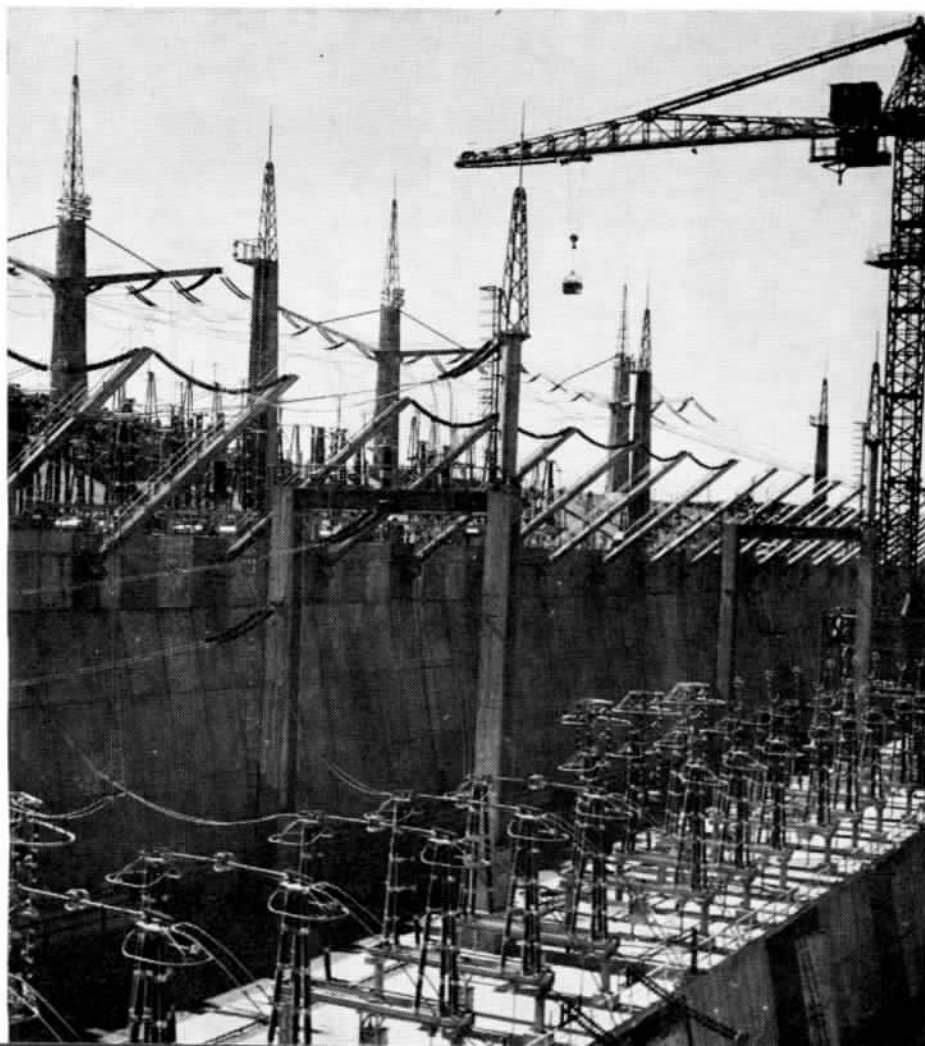
"I quote now from an article in *The Sunday Times* of 29th March, a

report from its correspondent in Jerusalem:

"What you call the occupied territories I call Israel. Hebron was, is and will be part of Zion'. With these words the colourful Minister of Transport in Israel's coalition Cabinet, General Ezer Weizmann, recently brushed aside a question about his country's policy towards the towns and territories captured from the Arabs in the Six-Day War."

"I shall not quote, though I could, all the provocative statements through the years of General Moshe Dayan, actually referring to advances on Amman and even Cairo, but I recall one recent incident. There was a public opinion poll conducted in Israel only a few days ago on the question of the treatment of the occupied territories. It is reported that no fewer than 86.4 per cent were in favour of Israeli settlement of these territories; in other words, what they had in mind was that these territories should remain permanently theirs.

"The question must inevitably be asked in the Arab countries: have the Israelis any intention of leaving the occupied territories in any circumstances?"



PALESTINE CHRONICLE

MARCH — APRIL 1970

14 MARCH 1970

An Israeli Arab from Haifa was shot dead in Gaza when he and others ran away on being challenged by an Israeli patrol. Another man, from Gaza, was wounded.

16 MARCH 1970

Israel radio reported the recent detention of 35 guerilla fighters in the Gaza strip, 28 of them secondary school students from Rafah. The Israeli report said the students belonged to "an organisation called the Student Union" and that ten grenades and a duplicating machine were found in the possession of the students when they were arrested.

19 MARCH 1970

Susan al Salih, daughter of a former Jordanian Defence Minister, was released from prison by the Israelis. She had been held for nearly a year without trial on suspicion of belonging to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

23 MARCH 1970

The Commission on Human Rights adopted a resolution condemning Israel's refusal to comply with the 1949 Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians. The Commission also extended the mandate of its Special Working Group, which has been investigating allegations of violation of human rights in the occupied territories. The group will continue its investigations and will examine in particular allegations of the torture of prisoners.

The Commission invited Israel to co-operate with the Group.

25 MARCH 1970

At a press conference, Dr. Ismat Abdel Majid, U.A.R. official spokesman, said the Red Cross had informed him that the Israelis were refusing to distribute Egyptian aid—consisting of food, medicine, clothing—sent by the U.A.R. to Gaza every three months through the Red Cross.

The Haifa central court sentenced Abdel Ra'uf Qaraman to twelve years' imprisonment for being a member of the resistance movement. The court

also sentenced Tawfiq Battah, a customs official of Muqayblah, to eight years' imprisonment for the same allegation.

27 MARCH 1970

A curfew was imposed until further notice on the Hebron province after incidents the previous day when small arms firing broke out near the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron.

A Nablus resident was shot dead in the town when he went out in defiance of the curfew and refused to identify himself to an Israeli patrol.

31 MARCH 1970

Arab farmers from the Jordan valley met Moshe Dayan in Jericho to protest that security measures were causing hardship to the farmers. They proposed that either the security regulations should be relaxed, or that compensation should be given to farmers affected by them. They also proposed that a committee on which the farmers would be represented, should be set up to look into their grievances. So far no action has been taken.

1 APRIL 1970

The special three-member committee to investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, established in December 1968, held its first hearings in Beirut, Damascus, Amman and Cairo, after which it proposes to visit occupied territories to see for itself the conditions under which the people live.

2 APRIL 1970

The Israelis mounted a large-scale attack on the Syrian border with land and air forces. Severe fighting went on for about seven hours.

Amnesty International published a report on the torture of Arab prisoners in Israel, giving details of the methods used by the Israelis to extract information on the Palestine resistance movement.

An Israeli army patrol fatally wounded a man who refused to identify himself during the night curfew in Beit Hanun, Gaza. There have been several

incidents of this kind reported recently by Israeli radio and in each case someone has been killed.

7 APRIL 1970

A Gaza military court sentenced Abdel Qadir al Husein of Nusayrat refugee camp to 25 years' imprisonment, ten of them with hard labour, for taking part in an ambush of an Israeli army patrol at the end of last year.

8 APRIL 1970

Israeli aircraft, which raided Salahiyyah, in the densely populated Nile Delta region, hit an elementary school near Bahr al Baqar, killing 30 children and one adult and wounding many more.

10 APRIL 1970

The Twelfth Conference of the Co-operative Settlements Movement of Israel, meeting in Rishpon, instructed its Secretariat to establish new "outposts" in the occupied areas and to increase the number of settlers in these "outposts". The same day, Hebron residents exiled to the East Bank held a meeting to discuss Israeli plans to settle 250 Jewish families in Hebron and decided to form a committee to resist any such move. There has also been opposition to the Hebron plan from within Israel, particularly from young leftists of the Matzpen movement who demonstrated in Jerusalem on 8th April.

Two Israeli Mystere aircraft attacked Shunah North and Tall al-Sukkar on the East Bank of the Jordan. Six civilians, including two children, were reported to have been killed, and ten wounded in Shunah North.

11 APRIL 1970

The United Nations' team investigating Israeli violations of human rights resumed its hearings in Damascus. The team was shown films of damage caused by attacks on villages in Qunaytra and on health units, and of burns and injuries inflicted on civilians in napalm attacks.

12 APRIL 1970

Another resident of the Gaza Strip was killed when he tried to run away from an Israeli patrol.

A SCHOOL SONG

SALAH JAHEIN is a folk poet of genius and is also a creative cartoonist who draws in Al Ahram. On the 10th April, 1970, he published a moving song, picturing the barbarous raid on the innocent children, while they were attending their lessons. Thirty Egyptian children were killed by Israeli bombs. In his poem Salah Jahein calls on international public opinion and the world conscience to examine this sad incident, and wonders how many more savage raids and acts of aggression will the world tolerate.

The children were reading their lessons and these were the last words of the lesson: the title of the poem is:

"A SCHOOL SONG"

WA HA BA means OFFERED
A KHA ZA .. TOOK
KA ZA FA .. THREW
KA TA LA .. FOUGHT
KATALA .. KILLED

Then the poem starts:
The lesson is over
hand over the exercise books
with the flowing blood
on the paper;

in the U.N.'s palace
painting competition
for the children.

What is your opinion of the
red spots?

Oh! dear, world's conscience
it belongs to an Egyptian child
pretty and gay;

she was one of the best of my
pupils

her blood painted a rose,
painted a revolutionary banner,
painted an image of conspiracy,
painted fire, painted shame!
on Zionism and imperialism
and the world is still patient
of them, still silent over the
deeds of the devils.

The lesson is over
hand over the exercise books;
What is the opinion of free
thinking men
about this idea?

painted with blood
To a poor child who was born in
bitterness;
but he was charming and gay,
with smiling mouth;
the blood of a farmer's child
painted the morning sun,
painted an apple tree,
in the reform gardens.

painted a crocodile
with a thousand wings,
in a world full of ghosts
with a rested heart.
Keeping silent over the deeds
of the devils;

The lesson is over
hand over the exercise books
What is your opinion
oh Arab people?
What is your opinion
oh free people?
The children's blood
comes creeping and calling ...
Revenge from the Devils;
The blood flows on the paper
spells the names,
requests the fathers to take
revenge for the sons;
paints a sword,
demolishes the false,
shine as the summer sun shines
in a world where the light is
but a slim beam,
and silent on the devil's work.
The lesson is over
hand over the exercise books,
offered, took, threw, killed,
no, no, no.

Say after me:
Rose, crossed, liberated,
freed.



PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE SUDANESE EMBASSY

PRESS CONFERENCE BY SAYED JOSEPH GARANG, MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOUTHERN AFFAIRS, HELD AT THE EMBASSY OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN, IN LONDON, ON FRIDAY, 10TH APRIL, 1970, AT 3.30 P.M. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS ATTENDED.

The Minister said: "The recent events in the Sudan seem to have aroused a great deal of talk and comment in the press. The situation was triggered off by the old, semi-feudal elements in the country, in an attempt to regain political power. The traditional religious sectarianism, led by El Hadi El Mahdi and with the backing of certain foreign circles, staged a senseless armed rebellion against the Government. The Government had for months, purposely avoided any confrontation with these sects. But they, instead, provoked the Government by taking the measures I have just mentioned. The recent incidents have proved also that the bulk of the Ansars are supporting the revolution against the forces of reaction and exploitation. Thousands of the so-called traditional followers of the Mahdi have rallied to the Government. In other words, the

Government has established complete order and the situation, even in the Mahdi stronghold, is under control. The rebellion was crushed with the minimum loss of life and property. Now the Government is devoting all its efforts to rebuild the national economy and to achieve the development required. "With regard to this, the Minister said: "We believe that our political independence is conditioned by our economic independence. The policy of the Sudan Government is one of co-operation with all countries east and west on an equal footing and in all fields."

Referring to the Southern Question, the Minister said: "We feel that world opinion has not fully grasped the problem of the Southern Sudan. We often hear and read a great deal in the press featuring this question as a racial conflict between Arabs and Africans.

Others refer to it as a religious conflict. This approach has confused world opinion, and has indeed been harmful to the South. Presenting the problem as a racial question does not help, because it is not a racial question. In my view, it is a question with deep historical origins which partly date back to the last century. Essentially the problem is one of uneven economic development between the two parts of the country. The North is in many ways more developed than the South. It was the colonial policy to develop parts of the Sudan more than others.

One of the main objectives of the May Revolution is to solve the southern problem by peaceful means. On 9th June, 1969, the Government announced a programme acceptable to both North and South, for the solution of the southern problem. The essence of this programme is that the South shall have regional autonomy within a united Sudan. The Government has from the start, recognised the differences which exist between the two parts of the Sudan, namely North and South. These differences are historical, cultural, ethnical, linguistic and geographical. The June declaration of regional autonomy for the Southern Provinces received nationwide support.

The programme for regional autonomy stipulates an action plan for social, economic and cultural development of the South. An action programme is now being carried out under the 1969/70 budget. A sum of 2,67 million (Sudanese) pounds has been set aside for a crash programme in the South. A new five-year plan has also been announced by the Government. The capital allocated for this plan is 436 million (Sudanese) pounds.

Alongside these development projects, the Government has already launched a personnel training programme for southerners in the different fields of state machinery. This includes the army, police, agriculture, education, public health, etc.

The Government of the Sudan is devoting all its efforts towards construction and building a new life for all Sudanese citizens.



Mr. Joseph Garang, Minister of State of Southern Affairs and H. E. Sudanese Ambassador in London, Abdien Ismael.

