

Intifada

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Arafat with Zhao Ziyang in Peking last week (Popperfoto/Reuter)

In support of Palestine

*Peking, New Delhi, Dacca throw their weight behind the PLO
as Arafat continues his global consultations*

Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yaser Arafat last week paid official visits to China, India and Bangladesh, where national leaders assured him of their governments' support of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and statehood under the leadership of the PLO.

Arafat's visits were part of an extended global tour

during which he has been consulting world leaders on the next step the PLO intends to take to bolster the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and carry the Palestinian people closer to their goal of freedom and independence.

In Peking, where Arafat and his aides met with President Yang Shan Quan, Communist Party Central



The PLO chairman with Indian leader Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi (Popperfoto/Reuter)

Committee Secretary-General Zhao Ziyang and Vice Premier Wu Xueqian, the Palestinian leader was told that the People's Republic of China supported the Palestinian struggle under the leadership of the PLO and the need for a UN-sponsored international peace conference on the Middle East in which all parties concerned, including the PLO, would participate.

Self-determination and independent statehood for the Palestinians under the leadership of the PLO received the full support of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who told the Palestinian delegation that his government also wanted to see efforts exerted for the early convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East.

India, Gandhi added, supported the "Palestinian options" that the PLO was now considering in preparation for the approaching meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC).

The PNC, the Palestinians' 454-member parliament-in-exile, is to meet within the next few weeks to reach a decision on the measures to be taken in support of the

intifada.

The options the PNC will be considering were also supported by Bangladesh President Hussein Mohammad Ershad, who met with the Palestinian delegation when Arafat and his aides visited Dacca on a stopover between Peking and New Delhi.

OPTIONS

The Palestinian options, one or a combination of which will be adopted by the PNC, have been listed by PLO sources as follows:

-- The creation of a provisional government or a government-in-exile;

-- The declaration of an independent Palestinian state based on UN Resolution 181 of 1947, which called for separate Arab and Jewish states in Palestine and a *corpus separatum* for Jerusalem.

-- The adoption of a new PLO political program addressing the question of Israel's existence and possibly offering the Jewish state mutual recognition.



Red Friday in Nablus

Palestinian blood flows as Israelis fire into crowds protesting a mosque murder

Four Palestinians were killed and scores wounded when Israeli troops opened fire with live ammunition and plastic bullets into crowds mourning a murdered townsman Friday, October 7.

It was the highest one-day, one-town casualty toll in the Occupied Territories in six months, and it touched off a wave of protests across the West Bank and the Gaza Strip Saturday, October 8, as every roof in Nablus carried a black flag in mourning for the city's five young men.

MOSQUE

The first death, which triggered the protests, came Thursday evening, when troops raided Nablus' Salaheddin Mosque and opened fire, killing 31-year-old Adnan Khanfa.

Khanfa's funeral was held early Friday, developing into a series of protests against the murder and the attack on the mosque. Israeli troops moved in and started shooting, dropping an undetermined number of protestors, four of whom died either on the spot or on

the way to the hospital. At least two others were said to be in critical condition.

The four Palestinians who were killed were identified as:

-- Nidal Ali Najjar, 20, who was shot in the head and died instantly;

-- Ali Ezzedine al-Sayeh, 18, who died at the Anglican Hospital in Jerusalem, suffering from a bullet wound in the heart;

-- Samir Bahloul, 26, who was shot in the head and chest while he was standing outside his house, apparently not involved in the protests;

-- Ahmad al-Masharwi, 17, who died of a head wound while he was being transported to a hospital.

Injuries reported by hospitals that Friday numbered 15, but witnesses said many more Palestinians were wounded who refused to be taken to the hospital, where Israeli troops and intelligence agents invariably wait to drag "suspects" away for questioning that involves various styles of torture and almost always ends in detention without charges or trial.

...and red Friday in Hebron

Seven days before Nablus' sabbath upheaval, Hebron had its own violent Friday, with Israelis killing two townsmen and injuring 50.

The West Bank city woke up September 30 to the news that an Israeli settler rabbi, Moshe Levinger, had shot and killed a 42-year-old Palestinian, Kayed Hassan Abdelaziz Salah.

Levinger was spirited away by Israeli troops, who later released him, announcing that he had nothing to do with Salah's death. He had merely shot into the air after his car was stoned, the official statement said.

As for how a bullet shot into the air had killed Salah, the occupation authorities said the Palestinian had in fact been killed in a confrontation between Hebron protestors and Israeli troops.

Since there were many

Palestinian eyewitnesses to the crime, the official story was dismissed as another lie, and several clashes ensued between demonstrators and troops during one of which another Hebron citizen, 17-year-old Mohammad al-Karki, was shot and killed.

Salah's funeral the same day drew a crowd of 3,000 angry Hebronites which the troops tried to disperse with gunfire and tear-gas. Fifty injuries were reported as the occupation authorities barged into the funeral and took the body to their headquarters in the city.

Hebron was meanwhile declared a "closed military district," with no reporters allowed in to see what was going on, including the bands of armed settlers who roamed the streets that day, smashing Palestinians' car windows.

The city declared a general strike in protest.



Carter: How to settle the Mideast conflict

The architect of the Camp David accords supports an international parley that is attended by all parties concerned and does not rule out Palestinian statehood

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter told the Oxford University Middle East Society (OUMES) last week that the best road to peace in the Middle East was an international peace conference that would enable the big powers to guarantee and finance the political settlement it reached.

In his October 3 address, in Oxford, England, Carter said no one should rule out independent Palestinian statehood as a major ingredient in the political settlement, although a Palestinian state might be rejected by Israel, Jordan or Syria, and although the Palestinians themselves might opt for a confederation with Jordan.

ACCEPT

The Israelis, he said, must publicly accept the Palestinians' right to self determination, be prepared to negotiate in good faith with their neighbors, including the Palestinians, and accept the concept of exchanging territory for peace, as provided for in Security Council Resolution 242.

He added that the Palestinians must also accept that resolution, along with "other resolutions that deal specifically with the Palestinian problem," including General Assembly Resolution 181, which calls for the establishment of separate Arab and Jewish states in Palestine.

The Palestinians, he said, could contribute to the peace process by "renouncing violence as a means to accomplish their ends, at least during the time when negotiations are under way."

Carter, who sponsored the Camp David accords between Israel and Egypt in 1978, said it would be "an idle effort now to resurrect Camp David," as Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir demands.

His talks with Arab, Israeli, European and big-power leaders had convinced him that a peace conference, possibly convened by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, would be the best route to take toward Middle Eastern peace, Carter said.

PARTIES

He added that all parties to the conflict, including Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt and the Palestinians, should take part in the conference, during which Israel would hold bilateral talks with each of the Arab parties, with the help of mediators and a possible "panel group" to which deadlocked issues could be referred.

Whatever agreement the parties arrived at would then be referred to the Security Council, where the five permanent members would take action to make sure it was implemented, Carter said. The major powers would also "raise the money to finance the agreement," which he estimated might cost some \$15 billion covering compensation for Palestinians who lost property in Israel and possible joint ventures that would benefit various Middle Eastern countries.

The money, Carter said, could be raised with the help of the more affluent nations, like Japan and Saudi Arabia.



Vengeance by olives

The Israeli authorities have started imposing heavy taxes on the owners of oil presses in the West Bank town of Tulkarem in another attempt to squash the *intifada* with collective punishment.

Oil-press owners in the town have been informed that they must pay between 2,000 and 5,000 Jordanian dinars (\$6,000-15,000) before they operate their presses later this month.

The commander of the occupation forces in the West Bank had confirmed last month that action would be taken to prevent Palestinian villages that took part in the *intifada* from exporting their olives and olive oil this fall.

Earlier this year, "unruly" villages in the Occupied Territories had been barred from selling their plum and grape harvests.

Elsewhere in the territories, Israeli occupation bureaucrats appear to have received orders to make Palestinians' lives as difficult as possible.

Reports from various parts of the territories indicate that Palestinians applying for a variety of documents required by the occupation authorities are being forced to wait interminably and subjected to indignities of all kinds as they cool their heels in crowded waiting rooms.

The Palestinians' 'political stone'

The PLO's Abu Iyad calls for a Palestinian position that would call the bluff of Israel and the U.S.

Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), the second-in-command at the Palestine Liberation Organization, has said that the Palestinian political leadership must rush to the support of the people of the Occupied Territories by "throwing a political stone" that would call the bluff of both Israel and the U.S.

In an article written for a Kuwaiti newspaper, Khalaf said the "political stone" the PLO should throw was public acceptance of the preconditions set by Washington and part of the Israeli leadership for peace negotiations with the PLO.

The U.S. has said it will not speak with the PLO unless the organization accepts Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338

and renounces violence.

CONCEDE

"We must concede," Khalaf wrote, "that the Zionist movement has succeeded in convincing the world of what it calls the prerequisites of a political settlement in the region -- namely, recognition of 242 and renunciation of terror. Our friends in the Soviet Union and in Europe speak of Resolution 242 and the renunciation of violence."

He added: "For me to recover part of this land (of Palestine), I have to meet the international community's prerequisites for a settlement, thus backing the U.S. and Israel into a corner.

"We are fully aware that even if we accepted Resolution 242 unconditionally and agreed to all the U.S.

administration's requests, our enemies will still refuse to give up one inch of the land. But by agreeing to the international community's conditions and escalating our struggle, we could force our enemy to make concessions on the ground."

The PLO's constituent groups have been debating the organization's options over the past several weeks, and a mainstream trend has reportedly developed in favor of responding positively to requests from East and West that a moderate posture be adopted within the limits of Palestinian aspirations for self-determination and independent statehood.

WHEN

"A Palestinian state," Khalaf wrote, "is a

foregone conclusion. The question is when it will come, and whether the current balance of forces is pulling in its direction," but not whether it will be created, because "the emergence of a Palestinian state has become inevitable," thanks mainly to the *intifada*, but also to Jordan's disengagement from the West Bank and the developing detente between the superpowers.

The one thing that could throw a spanner in the works, Khalaf said, would be an effort by opposition Palestinians to prevent the Palestinian leadership from seizing present opportunities by raising unrealistic revolutionary slogans "likely to stir emotions in the short run but not to determine a people's destiny."



A chat with the liberators

Journalist returns from the West Bank to report that the Israeli-Occupied Territories have already been 'liberated'

A foreign journalist who recently visited the West Bank has returned to report that the Israeli-occupied territory is "all but liberated" and that the courage, determination and high morale of the Palestinians there is almost unnerving.

He writes:

"When you step into the territories Israel occupied in 1967, you feel you are in a liberated land, a land that belongs to the people living in it.

"The feeling stems from the near-total control of the situation by the 'children of the stones,' who have in effect barred entry to the territory to any Israeli civilian who is not accompanied by soldiers or armed settlers. No Israeli Jew dares set foot in the Occupied Territories now unless he is well armed or under guard.

MASTER

"This situation differs markedly from the conditions that prevailed in the past, when crowds of Israeli Jews used to roam freely through the cities and towns of the Occupied Territories, talking down to the Palestinians, as a master would talk to his servant. Now, things are different. The streets of old Jerusalem, for instance, which used to overflow with shoppers, are now almost empty ...

"And the Palestinians like it that way. One Jerusalem merchant, sitting in front of his shop, told me: 'I would rather eat bread and onions and throw a stone than eat bread and meat and not be able to hold my head high. Everyone

should realize that we have decided to continue along this road to the end, and that we will not allow anyone to decide our fate.' You hear this kind of talk all over the territory. Everyone you talk to assures you that he would rather take the hardships of today than return to yesterday's humiliations ..."

The journalist said he was amazed by the discipline demonstrated by Palestinians of all ages. "You can find no one defying the orders and instructions of the leaders of the *intifada*," he writes. "There have been rumors that this total obedience is due in part to fear of retribution. What I saw did not bear those rumors out. People of all ages are eager to follow those instructions to the letter ..."

LEADERS

"The *intifada* leadership has convinced the people of the Occupied Territories that they themselves are the true leaders of the uprising, which was born to achieve their aspirations as a people and as individuals. The result is total unity and unflagging determination in the face of impossible odds."

The journalist reported a conversation he had with one of the young local leaders of the *intifada*:

"Our first objective,' the young man said, 'was to break the fear complex the Israelis had succeeded in planting among us. It wasn't easy. We had to convince our people that the Israeli soldier wasn't 'Superman' -- that he was an ordinary human being with ordinary strengths and weaknesses who could

easily be overcome. We had to teach them to distinguish between reality and Israeli propaganda. We did it, and once that was done, the rest was easy: our people poured out into the streets and challenged the occupation troops, and, as you can see, they won ..."

"Another young man told me: 'We study every move the Israeli soldiers make and see how we can use it against them. At one point, they started using catapults to throw stones at us. We began collecting these stones and throwing them back at the soldiers. The catapults soon disappeared. Then they began raiding houses at night, to escape the cameras of the Western journalists. We responded by inviting journalists to the areas where we believed a raid would be mounted that night, and in many cases we were right: the Israelis attacked and the cameras went into action. It was soon after that that the Israeli government decided to bar journalists from the Occupied Territories altogether -- but we're still managing to get the news and pictures to the outside world.'

FEAR

"Judging by what I saw, the 'fear complex' that once burdened the Palestinians has been transferred to the Israeli troops, on whose faces apprehension is obvious as they man observation posts or patrol the streets, avoiding the inner neighborhoods."

The journalist noted that, contrary to the impression held by Israelis, who seemed to believe that more Palestinian casualties would



Point counterpoint

Israeli Supreme Court judge Eliezer Goldberg said last week that Israel's political parties would henceforth be forbidden to use pictures of Israeli troops beating or otherwise mistreating Palestinians in their election campaigns. Goldberg made the statement after ruling that a campaign commercial by the Center Party should be taken off the air. The commercial showed an Israeli soldier beating a Palestinian on the head, with both of them superimposed over a picture of David Ben Gourion extending his hands in an offer of peace.

The Intifada says: If the spectacle of an Israeli soldier beating an unarmed Palestinian so disturbs Mr. Goldberg, perhaps he should ban the practice instead of pictures. Mr. Goldberg, however, needs to build up to such a move. He could start by putting a stop to the tragicomic procedures in which Palestinians are being jailed without trial, deported in violation of international law, and tortured and killed in their cells with impunity. Mr. Goldberg would do all that if he and his colleagues represented the justice they say they represent, but they will do nothing of the sort because, as they have demonstrated over and over again since 1967, they represent nothing of the sort.

*Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said on October 3 that if he became Israel's next prime minister, he would expand Jewish settlement in the Occupied Territories and break the *intifada* with "strength, determination and resolve."*

The Intifada says: To expand Jewish settlement in the Occupied Territories and to break the *intifada*, Mr. Shamir will need more than strength, determination and resolve." He will need to annihilate a people, including his own people, and they had far more strength, determination and resolve than he has. He will fail as they did, and he and his followers will become a blotch in our people's memory, as Adolf Hitler has become in the memory of the Jewish people.

The Israeli occupation authorities are saying that they are keeping Palestinian schools and universities closed to reduce violence and spare the lives and limbs of Palestinian students.

The Intifada says: The Israelis should take time off from their continued efforts to beautify their ugly image abroad and reflect: No matter how comely their image becomes abroad, it is their image in the Palestinian lands they occupy that will matter in the final analysis. We, the Palestinians, know what the Israelis are doing to us and our children and why and it is what we think about them that is important, because it is with us, not with the outside world, that the Israelis will live. How they will live with us and we with them is being determined now by every move the occupation authorities are making in our land.

be translated into fewer Palestinian protests, every casualty among the people of the Occupied Territories fanned the fires of revolt.

"Wherever a Palestinian is killed," he wrote, "his people are putting up a small monument, almost a shrine, for him. The shrines drive the Israelis mad, but whenever they destroy one, it goes up again the moment they turn their backs. I saw many of those monuments in the streets of the camps, towns and villages I visited. The inscription on one of them read: 'He married his homeland.'

"In the town of Beit Hanina, near Jerusalem, a young man by the name of Nidal al-Rabadi was killed 24 hours before I visited it. When I drove in, a monument carrying his name was already up, and the young men of the town had gone one step further: they had renamed the street where he dies. A sign nailed to an electricity pole read 'Nidal al-Rabadi Street.'"

OVERWHELMING

The journalist said the Palestinians he talked to believed that the term *intifada*, the closest English translation of which is "tremor," did not begin to describe what was going on in the Occupied Territories.

"This is an overwhelming revolution,' one of them told me," he wrote. "It is a revolution of all the people. Every individual among us is involved in it. That is why Israel's periodic claims that it has captured the leaders of the uprising are so laughable. The only way to stop this revolution is to capture or kill every one of us."



The great

It happens dozens of times every day, as a new breed of Palestinian hero

The majority of Palestinian nationalists on Israel's "wanted" lists remain free and active in anti-occupation protests despite massive ten-month manhunts mounted by hundreds of Israeli soldiers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinians who have repeatedly slipped through the Israeli dragnet, in which military vehicles, helicopters, roadblocks and house-to-house searches have been used, are looked up to as heroes by the people of the Occupied Territories, who have mobilized to keep them out of the clutches of the Israeli hunters.

Among the thousands on the "wanted" lists is Nasr Issa of Nablus, West Bank, who has been sought by the Israeli occupation forces since the *intifada* started 10 months ago but has managed to keep one step ahead of them.

Issa says one of the major rules

he and other fugitive Palestinians follow is never to sleep in one place for more than one night. He himself hasn't spent a night in his Nablus home since last December.

"I've been wounded several times," he says, showing the scars of rubber and live bullets on various parts of his body, "and I'll probably be wounded again, but they won't be able to get me that easily."

Atieh Jawad, of the Dhaisheh refugee camp near Bethlehem, has been hunted by Israeli troops and intelligence agents for months, but in spite of several close calls, he remains free.

On two occasions, he says, he was in his house when it was surrounded by occupation troops, but he still managed to slip through.

"One time I was in the shower when they told me the Israelis were

ringing the house," he recalls. "I threw on some clothes, climbed out through the bathroom window and slipped through their line."

SUMMONS

Before the uprising started on December 9, the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories took Israeli suppression far more passively. All the occupation authorities had to do when they wanted to question a Palestinian was deliver a summons to his village's *mukhtar*, and the wanted man would present himself at the police station the next day.

The uprising has brought with it a sea change in the Palestinians' attitude toward Israeli authority. Today, Palestinian nationalists wanted by the Israelis are in effect challenging the occupation authorities to "come and get me." The Israelis invariably come, but more often than not they leave



Plastic bullets bounce off the intifada

New ammunition has had no effect on the uprising, Israeli army chief reports

The Israeli army chief of staff, Lieutenant-General Dan Shomron, told a Knesset committee last week that his troops' use of plastic bullets had failed to reduce anti-occupation protests in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Speaking to the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on October 4, Shomron said that the plastic bullets had almost doubled casualties among Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, but with no visible effect on the *intifada*.

Israeli occupation forces, he said, had wounded 267 Palestinian demonstrators over the past three weeks, compared to 137 in the preceding three-week period.

Plastic bullets, first introduced in August, came into general use last month, when Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin gave orders to use them liberally against demonstrators, informing the press that his objective was to increase injuries among Palestinians.

The Israelis argue that plastic bullets, if fired from a distance of 70 meters, are not lethal. They insist that

the bullets are used only by trained soldiers who have orders to shoot only at the legs. The Israeli press, noting that a significant number of Palestinians had been killed by the new ammunition, has reported that "the plastic bullets are in fact fired at all ranges by inexperienced soldiers at all parts of the body, and their consequences are not infrequently lethal."

DEATH

An Israeli Knesset member, Yossi Sarid, told reporters last week: "They say the (plastic) bullet isn't lethal, but I'm not sure the bullet knows it."

Shortly after Shomron gave his report to the Knesset committee, Jerusalem's Al-Makassed Hospital announced the death of Nizam Abu Huweili, 24, who had been struggling for his life since September 27, when Israeli troops shot him in the head with a plastic bullet. Eight other plastic bullets had penetrated various parts of his body, and he had been beaten viciously after his capture in the Balata refugee camp, West Bank.

escape

once and again slips through massive Israeli dragnets

empty-handed.

So elusive have the Palestinian nationalists become that the Israelis have had to resort to subterfuge to trap them.

Israeli intelligence agents have often posed as Western journalists reporting for major media or as members of well-known Western or international humanitarian organizations to gain the trust of Palestinians and persuade them to produce a wanted nationalist.

In one now well-known case last summer, the American ABC television network sent a stiff protest to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir when it received proof that members of the Shin Bet internal security force had impersonated an ABC news crew to capture an 18-year-old Palestinian nationalist, Nizar Daouk.

In another instance of Shin Bet trickery, a woman recently called a

gas station near the Dhaisheh refugee camp and asked to speak to Jamil Farraj, a Palestinian wanted by the Israelis. She said his brother, Hamdi, who was being treated at a hospital in Britain, was on the line and wanted to speak to him.

When she was told Jamil was not there, she requested that a message be given to him that his brother would call again at 2:00 p.m. When Jamil showed up at 2:00 p.m. on August 16, the Israelis were waiting for him. The next day, his name appeared among the 25 whom Israel had decided to deport.

But Israel's exploitation of the Palestinians' love of kin and of their desire to attract world attention to their ordeal is not working as well any more. Palestinians have become less trusting and are taking more precautions, with the result that very few of the people the

Israelis set out to capture are ever found.

SWOOP

Last month's swoop of hundreds of Israeli troops on the West Bank town of Kalkilya, for instance, netted them only two out of tens of Palestinian nationalists on their list, although they kept the town under siege for eight full days, which they spent searching every house in the town and every hill and grove around it.

The Palestinian nationalists' courage and their skill in evading capture earned them an honorable mention in the 26th leaflet written by the Unified National Command of the Uprising and issued late last month.

The Unified Command praised the youths for escaping the Israelis and urged all Palestinians to help them.



Landmark pro-Palestinian stand adopted by British Labor Party conference

The British Labor party conference last week passed a resolution supporting the Palestinian people's right to statehood and self-determination and recognizing the Palestine Liberation Organization as the "legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

The resolution, passed by a vote of 4.2 million to 1.9 million, condemned Israel for its "illogical occupation" of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, deplored the Jewish state's "iron fist" policy toward the Palestinians in those territories, and expressed "solidarity with the just revolt of the Palestinians against their condition of squalor and repression."

The Labor Party conference, held in Blackpool, demanded the convening of a UN-sponsored peace conference in which all parties to the conflict are represented, including the PLO and Israel.

In its landmark resolution, passed October 6, the conference instructed the Labor Party's National Executive Committee "to demand Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967" and "give public effect to its view by inviting the Palestine Liberation Organization to the 1989 Labor Party conference," to be held next fall.

The resolution will now go on the Labor Party program, to be studied as part of the party's current policy review, which should be completed by next year's

conference.

Once it is approved, it will become official Labor Party policy and will be published in the party's manifesto in the next elections.

Labor party sources say that although the National Executive Committee was opposed to the resolution, the fact that it passed by a two-thirds majority will impose it on the party's policy-makers, who cannot afford to ignore it.

TEXT

The full text of the resolution follows:

Conference notes the continuing illegal and repressive Israeli occupation since June 1967 of the Gaza Strip and West Bank and the Palestinian popular uprising in which between 9th December 1987 and May 1988 more than 200 Palestinians were killed, hundreds maimed, thousands detained, and 24 hour curfews imposed by the Israeli military authorities.

In view of the historical role which Britain and Western governments have played in the Middle East, conference notes:

a) these territories were illegally occupied by Israel 21 years ago;

b) the United Nations and non-aligned movement have both called for Israel's withdrawal to its pre-1967 borders;

c) in a recent ABC/Newsday poll 93 percent of Palestinians in the Occupied Territories stated support for the Palestine Liberation

Organization;

d) the decision of the 1987 Trades Union Congress:

1) to support the convening of a UN-sponsored international conference as the way to achieve a lasting peace in the Middle East where all parties concerned - including Israel, the PLO, the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and the permanent members of the Security Council -- participate in working out a solution;

2) urging the Israeli authorities to lift restrictions, identified in various ILO reports, on Palestinian trade unions in the Occupied Territories of the West Bank and Gaza;

3) recognising the rights of the Israeli and Palestinian people to statehood and self-determination and the rights of all states in the region to exist within secure and internationally recognised boundaries with justice and security for all peoples of the region;

e) that the Palestinian people are protesting against Israeli occupation and are demanding the right to secure their own future;

f) the actions of the European parliament and in particular the British Labour Group in refusing to ratify trade agreements with Israel. This has sent a clear message of disapproval of Israel's brutal repression of the uprising from a major international forum.

Conference therefore



Palestinians in Israel stage a 'warning strike'

Forty-five Arab town councils in Israel staged a one-day "warning" strike on October 6 to protest Israeli actions in the Occupied Territories and discrimination against Arab citizens of the Jewish state.

Ibrahim Hussein, chairman of the committee of Arab mayors (National Committee of Arab Local Councils), told reporters the Arabs of Israel could no longer tolerate the oppression and harassment of their Palestinian brethren in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Israeli Arabs," he said, must launch a public struggle against the occupation.

Most Arabs in Israel support a two-state solution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, calling for an independent Palestine in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to live in peace alongside Israel.

As Israeli citizens, they also demand equality with the Jews and have often protested the discrimination that they and their children face in schools, universities, the job market and municipal and health affairs.

The funds Jewish town councils in Israel receive from the government are huge compared to the trickle that goes to Arab town councils.

The latest protest strike was touched off by the escalation of Israeli brutality in the Occupied Territories and by Israeli moves to tighten the noose around the necks of Palestinian towns in Israel, including a plan to merge four Arab town councils into two -- a plan that would topple the elected mayors of the four towns (Abu Snan, Kfar Yasif, Jdeideh, Makr) and further reduce the funds the towns are receiving from the government.

"We already get one-fourth of what Jewish town councils get," Arab Knesset Member Toufik Toubi said.

Israel's routine discrimination against its Palestinian citizens has been largely ignored by the international media, which have focused on the Israeli claim that the Jewish state is an island of democracy in a sea of autocratic states.

Some 17 percent of the Israeli population is "Israeli Arab" - meaning Palestinians with Israeli citizenship.

i) deplores the iron fist policy of the Israeli military in their attempt to suppress this popular uprising. The indiscriminate use of ammunition, tear gas and beatings is unacceptable against the unarmed civilian population as are mass arrests, detentions and the deportation of Palestinians to foreign countries;

ii) expresses solidarity with the just revolt of the Palestinians against their condition of squalor and repression;

iii) adds its voice to those parties, including the European Community and Trades Union Congress, in support of an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations and attended by the permanent members of the Security Council and all parties concerned, including Israel and the PLO;

iv) recognises the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people;

v) supports the right of Palestinian people to statehood and self-determination.

Conference instructs the National Executive Committee:

A) to demand Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967;

B) give public effect to its view by inviting the Palestine Liberation Organization to the 1989 Labour Party conference;

C) to publicise and encourage support for the Palestinian trade union appeal aimed at helping the Palestine Trade Union Federation to rebuild co-operatives in the refugee camps in the Occupied Territories.



The Israeli rod and the Palestinian classroom

Once more, the Jewish state takes it out on Palestinian children in a fit of collective punishment aimed at schools and universities

A general strike paralyzed the Israeli-Occupied Territories on October 3 in protest against the continued forced closure of West Bank schools and universities by the Israeli occupation authorities.

The strike, called by the Unified National Command of the Uprising in its 26th leaflet, came shortly after the Israelis announced that the opening of West Bank schools, originally slated for October 1, would be postponed until November 15.

Forced closure cost the West Bank schools' 300,000 students most of the 1987-88 academic year, and Palestinians suspect that the Israelis intend to step up this form of collective punishment in the 1988-89 academic year.

West Bank universities, which have been closed since the *intifada* started 10 months ago, will also remain closed until November 15, according to the occupation authorities' order.

RIGHT

Dr. Hanan Mikhael Ashrawi, dean of arts at Bir Zeit University in the West Bank, told reporters last week: "I don't know of any authority that has ever deprived a whole population of its basic right to education."

The Palestinians, who have appealed to the UN and other world bodies to intervene and put an end to the "educational oppression" of the Palestinian people, are still hoping that international organizations like UNESCO will exert pressure on Israel to end its crackdown on the students of the Occupied Territories.

While they realize that a UNESCO move in that direction would have little effect on a government that has ignored dozens of international laws and resolutions, they hope that the action will draw attention to their children's ordeal and build up so much global pressure that even a renegade state like Israel cannot afford to ignore it.

Israeli leaders, in an effort to preempt an international outcry, have been making public statements to the effect that school closures are calculated to reduce "riots" and thus spare Palestinian students retaliatory violence.

Israel's professed concern for the safety of

Palestinian students, however, does not explain its crackdown on Palestinian efforts to provide children in the Occupied Territories with alternative education.

COMMITTEES

Popular education committees last year organized classes for neighborhood children in most Palestinian towns and villages but soon had to go underground as Israeli troops moved in to break up the small informal home-teaching sessions.

For this academic year, the Unified National Command of the Uprising has instructed parents to start by teaching their children separately at home, giving them guidelines as to the subjects they should teach and the methods they should use to keep the students interested in their studies. At a later stage, the Unified National Command has said, a number of families could try gathering their children in one home to be taught by a qualified teacher.

CORRESPONDENCE

Meanwhile, reports from the West Bank indicate that faculty members of the major universities have been working on a program of alternative university education involving correspondence courses.

The professors hope to publish course material in East Jerusalem's Arabic press and give lectures on Jordanian television, which is received in the Occupied Territories.

This will require the approval of the Jordanian authorities, which have not been approached yet, and it is built on the assumption that the Israeli occupation authorities will allow course material to be published in the Jerusalem press and Palestinian students to mail in their examinations and papers -- a big assumption in the view of many observers in the territories who believe that the Israelis will block the move on one pretext or another.

One pretext has already been mentioned by Israeli officials, who have said that the crackdown on educational institutions is aimed not only at preventing students gatherings but also at preventing teachers from disseminating "anti-Israel material."