

Danger of New Imperialist Aggression in the Middle East By Tawfig Toubi

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Appearing cynically as peacemakers, the U.S. occupation forces with other NATO forces have converted Lebanon into a U.S.-Israeli condominium. It has become a new base for aggression and for promoting U.S. global strategic plans against the Soviet Union, against world peace.

With a U.S. armada concentrated off the shores of Lebanon — 30 warships, three aircraft carriers, 300 war planes — President Reagan has been openly threatening Syria with so-called punitive measures. The U.S. ruling circles are openly coordinating plans with the Israeli government for the latter to undertake a military operation against Syria on behalf of the United States. It is no secret that the White House is pushing Israel to launch a new war against Syria in order to change the balance of forces in favor of the U.S. regional and global strategy.

The correspondent of Davar newspaper in the USA, Priel, disclosed in a report (November 13, 1983) that the visit of U.S. Under Secretary of State Eagleberger to Israel at that time was intended to persuade Israeli leaders that an "Israeli military operation on behalf of the USA will be not only in the Israeli military interest but also in the strategic political interest of bringing the two countries, Israel and the USA, nearer in a way which was not the case in the past. Further, Israel would benefit out of it with very small risks."

Israeli leaders have not rejected the idea but they want the USA to have a more direct military involvement in it and not just its backing from behind the scenes.

The US government is openly increasing its bribes to the Israeli government in order to carry out the dirty adventurous work for the United States in the region.

On November 12, 1983, the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives approved increased military aid to Israel to the tune of 1.7 billion dollars, half of it will be a free grant and the remainder will be in the form of a long term loan. Over and above this, Israel has received from the USA direct economic grants amounting to 950 million dollars. The U.S. also granted Israel's request that 550 million dollars be assigned for the development of the Israeli Lavie war

plane. All this is being done when the U.S. has diminished its aid to other countries.

The plans for aggression against Syria are part and parcel of the U.S.-Israeli strategy for promoting U.S. world domination, against the peoples' independence in the Middle East, Africa and Central America.

At the same time, the Israeli occupants in the West Bank and Gaza strip, taking advantage of the present situation, are intensifying their repressive measures in these occupied territories. The iron fist of the Israeli military and the brutal attacks of the colonial settlers aim at breaking the will and spirit of the Palestinian people.

The University of Bethlehem was closed for two months (November-December 1983), with the Israeli army shooting and killing and wounding some people in Tulkarm in West Bank in November 1983. Refugee camps in the occupied territories are under constant curfew with Israeli colonial settlers, disguised as Arabs, carrying out armed attacks against them. Atrocities are also committed against political prisoners, as was the case with women political prisoners in Ramleh prison.

I visited this prison with other members of our Parliament in November 1983, 15 days after an attack was made with gas against women political prisoners in their cells. There are political prisoners who have been kept in their cells for five months, for 23 hours daily.

Despite these atrocities, the determination of the Palestinian people to stand up against the occupation is unbreakable, and they have been carrying on the struggle through strikes, demonstrations and mass protest.

The forces of peace in Israel see as an urgent and historic task to mobilize and unite all efforts in Israel in order to prevent a new Israeli adventure against Syria, in the service of the USA, and to bring about Israeli withdrawal from the whole of Lebanon, to stop the brutal, repressive and colonial measures against the Palestine Arab people in the occupied territories.

Israeli Zionist ruling circles are trying to come out from the present impasse and from the deepening economic and social crisis, which was evident also in the resignation of the Begin government, by a new aggression. They hope to achieve thereby what they failed to do by their aggression in Lebanon in 1982. But the people in Israel now realize that the only outcome of a new adventure will be new tragedies, new sacrifices, new debacles, and new obstacles in the way of peace. That is why no week passes without action by Israeli soldiers refusing to serve in Lebanon, by parents demonstrating for the return of their boys home, and by masses of people to end the occupation.

געמיינט, אז מיר זיינען אין בראָד, אָדער אין לעמבערג. די אייגענע יידן, די אייגענע וויבער, די אייגענע געוואָלדן, דאָס אייגענע מיסט, וואָס דאָרטן. נישט מער דער טומל מיטן האַרמידער איז דאָ אַ סך גרעסער. און דער רעש איז שטאַרקער, הילכיקער. אויך די מויערן זיינען העכער, אַ סך העכער. זעקס עטאָזשן איז אַ געלעכטער. פאַראַן הייזער פון צוועלף עטאָזשן, און פון צוואַנציק, און פון דרייסיק, און פון פערציק, און נאָך העכער... ווער עס האָט נישט געזען די ניו־יאָרקער סטריט — דער האָט גאָר קיין שיינס נישט געזען, וואָס געפינט איר נישט אויף דער סטריט? יידן האַנדלען, וויבער זיצן און שמו־עסן, קינדער אין די וועגעלעך שלאָפן. "קערעדזשעס" הייסן דאָ די וועגעלעך. אַלע קערעדזשעס האָבן איין פנים. דאָ, אויף דער סטריט, האַדעוועט מען די קליינע עופהלעך מיט מילך פון קליינע פלעשעלעך. גרעסערע קינדער שפילן זיך. און שפילן שפילט מען זיך מיט טויזנטערלי שפי־לערייען: מיט קנעפלעך, מיט רעדלעך, אין באַל, אין ווע־געלעך, אין שליטעלעך און אין "סקייטס". דאָס איז אַ מין זאָך אויף פיר רעדלעך, צוגעבונדן צו די פיס, און אויף דעם רעדלט מען. מען קאָן טויב ווערן פון דעם געפילדער, וואָס די קינדער הויבן אויף אויף דער סטריט...

When Prime Minister Shamir visited the Israeli troops in South Lebanon in November 1983, an Israeli soldier had the courage to speak on behalf of his colleagues and declare: "We feel here like the Germans in Europe during the Second World War."

More people in Israel are beginning to understand that it is only when Israel withdraws completely from the West Bank and the Gaza strip occupied in June 1967, only when the Palestinian people enjoy self-determination and constitute their own independent state alongside Israel, when the Palestinian refugees eventually are enabled to exercise their right for repatriation according to UN resolutions, when U.S. imperialism stops its aggressive activities in our region, then and only then security and peace will reign in the Middle East in the interest of the Palestinian, Israeli and all peoples of the region.

An essential step for our region to advance towards peace is the calling of an international conference with the participation of the USSR and the USA and all parties involved, including the PLO, the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

The peace forces must all be in the global struggle together, together we shall win. □

Tawfig Toubi is a member of the Israeli Knesset and a member of the Presidential Committee of the World Peace Council.

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