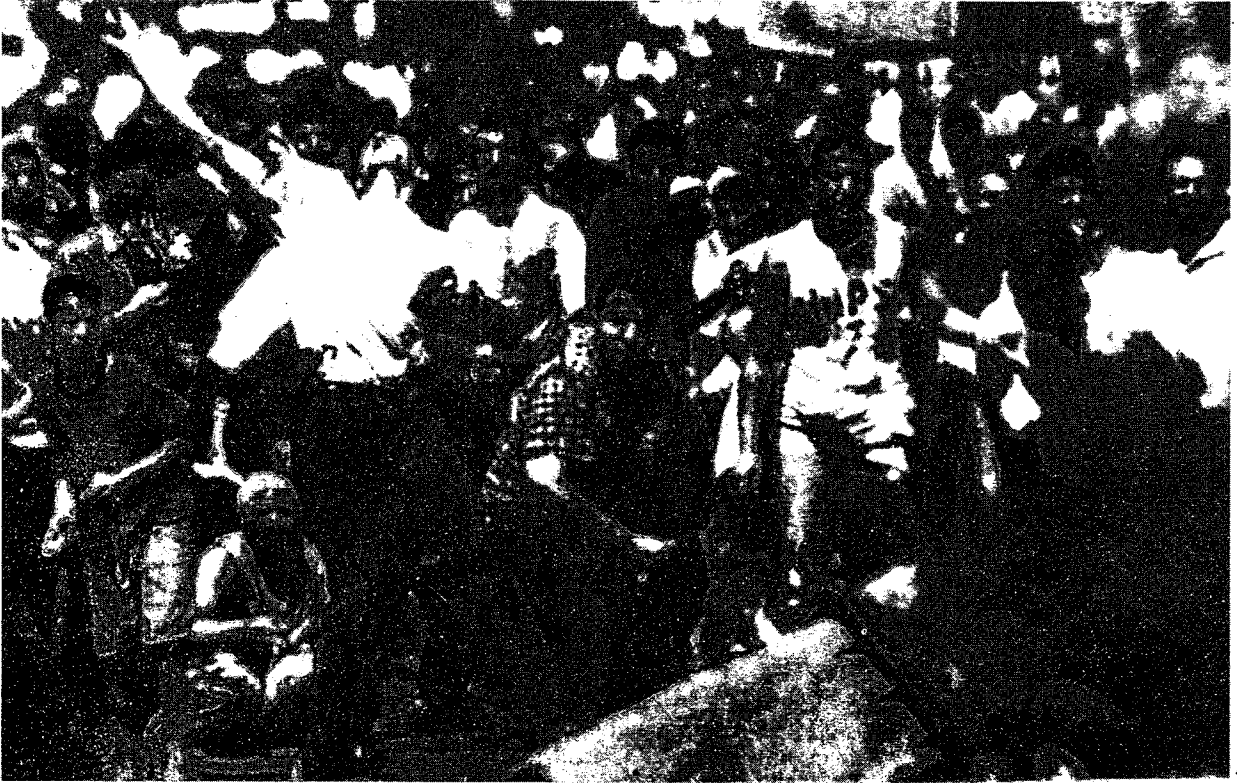


The Emerging New



“We believe that the international situation is generally favourable for the advance of the revolutionary struggle. While we are not yet experiencing the same kind of high tide of revolutionary struggle on a world scale that we have witnessed in the past and will surely see again, we can speak with confidence of an emerging new wave of the world proletarian revolution.”

- RIM Committee, 2000

Wave of Revolution

Condemn the Israeli Occupiers and Support the Just Struggle of the Palestinian People!

By the Committee of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement

16 October 2000

Since 28 September, the Israeli hoodlums have been firing rubber bullets, lead bullets, armour-piercing rounds and helicopter gunship missiles at Palestinian youth and children. More than a hundred were killed within a few weeks and thousands more wounded. Israeli troops have been shooting at Red Crescent ambulance drivers to make sure that the injured die. And yet the American godfathers of this settler state are condemning the Palestinians and holding them responsible for this cold-blooded bestiality. With the backing of his US masters, Israeli Prime Minister barking Barak arrogantly threatens to bring down a million times more firepower on the youth of Palestine.

Already, hundreds of thousands of the masses in Arab countries and the Middle East have gone into the streets in support of the just struggle of the Palestinian people. We join with them and call upon the proletariat and masses of the world to resolutely condemn and oppose the aggression of Israel's criminal army and secret police against the Palestinians. Let us once again be clear that it is the US that arms and finances the Zionist state of Israel, whose very existence is based on the illegitimate occupation of Palestine. Israel is a dog on an American leash. Its job is to lash out violently against the masses of Palestine as well as the neighbouring countries and the whole region in order to protect US imperialist interests.

As much as the Israeli show of force against rock-throwing youth is ugly, the fearless struggle of the Palestinian people is inspiring. It powerfully demonstrates the great truth that Mao Tsetung always emphasised, that where

ever there is oppression there is resistance. Just as these events reveal that the US-sponsored talks and promises about the "peace process" and "a lasting solution" are nothing but lies meant to gain stability for its Middle Eastern gendarme, the struggle of the Palestinian masses proves once again that they will not allow their homeland to be taken away from them by such cynical deal-making.

In the US imperialists' dreams of a "new world order", the Palestinian people were supposed to meekly submit and accept Israel's oppressive existence and its role in the region. And Arafat, in his dreams, was expecting the US to help him get a Palestinian mini-state. Arafat argued that the state of Israel had to be accepted. He declared that his capitulation to the imperialist "peace process" was the only "realistic" solution for the Palestinians. He argued that it would be impossible to fight to overthrow the state of Israel through a revolutionary war of the masses and replace it with a secular (non-religious) democratic state for all the people of Palestine regardless of their religious beliefs. But life itself has made it clear just how unrealistic this so-called realism really is. This road has led only to more and more betrayal. The reality is that the Palestinian national question cannot be solved by the imperialists. The reality is that for more than 50 years the existence of the state of Israel in occupied Palestine has been the lynchpin of the imperialist order in the Middle East – this is why the US subsidises Israel to the tune of billions of dollars a year. The Palestinian national question cannot be solved by recognising the legitimacy of the

occupiers. And since this is exactly the centrepiece of what Arafat proposes to do by embracing the "peace process", this plan offers no solution at all. The occupation is unjust and the Palestinians are absolutely right to fight it. The people of the whole world must support their just struggle. To succeed, the Palestinian people need to understand the comprador-feudal and pro-imperialist nature of Arafat and the Fatah leadership, which can only lead to repeated betrayal.

The Islamic group Hamas offers no more of a solution than Arafat. Hamas was founded and boosted by the reactionary powers during the 1970s and 1980s, when the US imperialists were building up Islamic forces in opposition to the national liberation movements and as a wall against Soviet influence. Hamas criticises the most obvious features of Arafat's capitulationist programme in order to win the support of the masses and move up the ladder of power itself, yet at the same time, spewing Islamic obscurantist demagogy, it says that the liberation of Palestine must await some future holy "resurrection". In short, Hamas is willing to live with the Israeli occupation if this group is given the status and privileges it seeks. The Islamic Republic of Iran, which backs Hamas and other Islamic forces, is itself a reactionary, oppressive state. During its 20 years of rule it has never hesitated to gun down protesting workers, students, Kurds and others. Moreover, it is notorious for working with the Israeli army in arms deals and in other ways. The Hamas goal of a theocratic state is a reactionary programme. An Islamic theocratic state is

as reactionary as a Jewish theocratic state. The minimum programme for revolutionary change in Palestine can only be the formation of a secular, democratic state for all the people of Palestine regardless of religious belief. We Maoists (revolutionary communists) call for the establishment of such a state throughout the territory of Palestine. That is the only possible realistic solution and it is still the goal. All other programmes are fakes. To make revolution in Palestine and the other Arab and non-Arab countries of the Middle East will in fact be a protracted and difficult task. But the programmes offered by Arafat and Hamas can only lead to betraying and dashing the hopes of the masses and wasting their heroic sacrifices. It is time to end the bitter cycle of rising up and being betrayed by misleaders and reactionary and capitulationist programmes.

Often we revolutionary communists are told that our ideas may be correct "in theory" but that "in practice" there is no choice but to bend these truths to the expediency of the moment. This is a wrong view of this ugly and oppressive world and what has to be done to change it. In fact, this is the outlook behind bargaining away the just struggle of the Palestinian masses to the imperialist "new world order". In every way and every day the enemy demonstrates that "political power grows out of the barrel of a gun". Without a people's war, it is impossible to liberate the masses of Palestine and the neighbouring countries from the clutches of Israel and the reactionary Arab states propped up by US imperialism. People's war is the only possible path to victory and only a Marxist-Leninist-Maoist party can lead the masses on this road. Now more than ever the people need their own revolutionary force in the field. The first and immediate step is to lay the foundations of Marxist-Leninist-Maoist organisation in Palestine and the neighbouring countries that can work to defend the independent interests of the proletariat and the oppressed and start the process of building genuine vanguard parties that can lead the people in making revolution. We urge all those who want to play a role in *this* process to get in touch with RIM, the embryonic centre of the world's Maoists, and join your experience and struggle with that of proletarian fighters all over the world.

The formation of such a party and its intervention in the Palestinian struggle will mark a watershed in the advance of genuine revolution in the whole region, just as the advance of the proletarian revolution throughout the region is inextricably linked to the new-democratic revolution in Palestine. With the leadership of such a party, the masses can come out of every round of battles – despite an unfavourable balance of forces and even temporary setbacks – with a sharper focus on how to battle the enemy, discovering the enemy's strength and weaknesses and developing a strategy that can win. The formation of such a party in Palestine would greatly influence the revolutionaries in the neighbouring Arab countries and other countries in the Middle East. The in-

ternationalist unity of the revolutionaries and masses of all these countries would add enormous strength to their struggles and help create a situation in which Israel would be encircled and opposed from all sides, including within.

People all over the world are filled with rage at Israel's crimes – and equally filled with admiration and hope by the Palestinian youth. The Palestinian cause was supposed to be as dead as a cold fire. The imperialists had already celebrated and the Zionist regime thought it could just throw on a few last shovels of dirt. Once again the Palestinian masses have proven that the fires of liberation and revolution can smoulder deep underground but, sooner or later, no matter what, the flames will shoot into the air. ■

On the Palestinians' Struggle

Since the statement above by the RIM Committee in October 2000, Ariel Sharon has replaced Barak as head of the Israeli government. Sharon is infamous globally as the "butcher of Beirut". As Israeli Minister of Defence in 1982, during Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon, Sharon was in charge of Israeli forces who allowed extreme-right wing Christian Phalangists into the Sabra and Chatila Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. The Phalangists slaughtered hundreds of unarmed Palestinian refugees in cold blood, including large numbers of women and children. The Israeli goal was then – as it is now – to terrorise the Palestinian people into submission.

Putting the reins of power into the blood-soaked hands of Sharon thus delivered an unmistakable message to the Palestinian people that the US-backed regime would be resorting to the cruelest methods. The Israeli stormtroopers are now carrying out a campaign of selective assassination and terror, wreaking high-tech murder and mayhem from the safety of the

skies, with Phantom jets and Apache helicopters targeting "smart" missiles at Palestinian cars, homes and offices. They try to portray this as "surgical strikes against terrorism". The Israelis are hitting some of the same forces with whom they have negotiated and collaborated for years in an effort to compel greater capitulation and to sow widespread terror. The Israelis have proven themselves able junior partners of their imperialist masters in the US, whose own cowardly war tactics more and more emphasise the use of electronic instrument panels located at a safe distance from their targets.

Their problem is, however, that an oppressed people can never be beaten entirely into submission. Not only has their high-tech intimidation failed to cow this new cycle of rebellion, but the Israelis are also encountering increasing opposition and denunciation abroad. The phoenix of the Palestinian resistance has risen from the ashes yet again, and will one day surely stretch its wings over a liberated Palestine.

-AWTW

The advances of the world's Maoist forces, together with the continuing righteous struggle of the Palestinian people, is creating new opportunities to bring Maoism to this crucial battlefield. One key way this can be accomplished is by translating Maoist literature into Arabic and distributing it, including *A World To Win* articles and key documents of RIM like *Long Live Marxism-Leninism-Maoism!* To help in this effort generally or with the vital task of translating and getting revolutionary literature into the hands of the Palestinian masses in particular, please contact local RIM forces or write to: BCM AWTW / London WC1N 3XX / UK.