

and Jihad Dhahi among the other founding leaders of the Kata'ib confirmed to this author the profound impact of the Palestinian nakba on their behavior and system of thought.⁴ To them, as to other members of their organization, the loss of Palestine marked the turning point in their lives. No more would they lead the life of ordinary men. They were possessed with the idea of revenge. The Palestinian War aggravated and complicated the tensions which have mounted in the Arab World for some time. It was the fear of the danger of Zionist expansion that prompted those young revolutionaries to act and act fast before it was too late! They saw in Israel a constant threat to the realization of their national objectives, and nothing was more important to them at this time than to achieve those objectives.

The young Arab radicals were not unnaturally attracted to the various revolutionary doctrines of Western Europe to which their education had given them access. However, in choosing their strategy and tactics, the founding leaders of the Kata'ib did not neglect to study the experience of Arab revolutionary movements.⁵ The result was a curious amalgam of revolutionary thought based on a strong anti-Zionist, anti-foreign emotionalism that sanctified political violence. At this time Giuseppe Garibaldi, the Italian patriot and guerrilla leader of the Risorgimento, became their idol. They drew comparisons

⁴Personal interview, June 30, 1970.

⁵Ibid.