

Nablus electricity project to go on strike and to refuse to submit any plans for the project, as the occupation demanded of them in order to take over the whole project.

With all this, especially the appointments, Israel is aiming at formal Arabization of the council's administration and departments, while maintaining the political Judaization already established: When the occupation authorities were negotiating with the Chamber of Commerce in Nablus, they demanded that the secretariat and department heads be in the hands of appointed Israelis. This shows that all the concessions that have been made are not enough. Certain Palestinian forces, Jordan and the Arab League should realize this. What is going on now will harm the national cause and the steadfastness of our people. In addition, it will facilitate the effort to 'normalize' the occupation politically and give it a national cover. What is happening in Nablus is the start of what is going to happen in other areas. Talk is already circulating about its application in the councils of Ramallah, Al Bira and Al Khalil (Hebron).

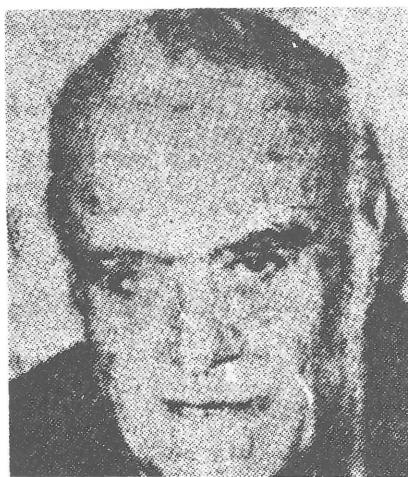
The matter of normalization cannot be separated from the moves of the US consul who announced many times that the US administration is concerned to give a wider, active role to the councils. From the US point of view, this means activating the Palestinian section of the Camp David accords. News coming from Amman indicates that the US consul there is moving in the same direction.

There are other matters which are creating a danger for our national cause and affecting the steadfastness of our people in the occupied homeland. This concerns the aid offered by several funds to strengthen steadfastness. The Arab fund, for instance, sent a delegation to study the possibilities for help and who is to receive this. But what happened? This aid was channeled as permitted by the occupation, where it can be of no use to the citizens. It was channeled to administrative bodies that collaborate with the occupation.

For example, a major part of this aid is given to the public hospital. Meanwhile, the citizen is obliged to pay a percentage of his income for health insurance in accordance with the orders of the occupation authorities, and to pay hospital expenses at the rate of 40 Jordanian dinars (almost \$120) per night. Plus he has to buy medicine from outside the hospital. This example shows that the aid given to the hospitals does

not contribute to strengthening the steadfastness of the citizens. It shows that this aid is used to meet immediate, temporary requirements without contributing to the achievement of a complete health plan.

Going back to our position on the mayor's appointment, I reject this, as do the different nationalist forces, because it is a conspiracy. We must reject it because it is a political matter. Unified, collective efforts should be made to foil it on the basis of the political reality inside and outside, in order to insure the preservation of the Palestinian national program.



*Dr. Haidar Abdel Shafi,
head of the Palestinian
Red Crescent Society
in Gaza*

The Jordanian-Israeli move, raising the matter of appointing the municipal councils, and the moves of the US consul, are all linked with the wasteful policy that started with the Amman accord. Jordanian-Israeli coordination on different levels is an old matter, as is the appointment of pro-Jordanian elements to some administrative posts.

Let us take the case of the Jerusalem Electric Company and the attempts made to share its concession, or the Jordanian delegations, including the recent agricultural delegation. This gives us an idea of what Israel offers Jordan under the US-sponsored settlement. It gives an idea of the ceiling for the distribution of roles under Israeli domination. These are all indications of the Israeli concept of the settlement, and the results of the Palestinian right-wing's policy which started with the Amman accord.

In the course of the attempts made by these different parties to create

Palestinian support for the US-sponsored settlement, there are also the US consul's meetings in Jerusalem with Palestinian personalities. In our view, no talks with the US or its representatives will offer our people anything, because the US position is that of clear hostility... Such meetings will only consecrate the US's insistence that we should meet all their conditions.

Raising the matter of appointments is an attempt to draw the attention of the people away from the attempts being made to take over all the municipal councils' independent projects. These attempts started with the appointment of Israeli administrators before any Arab committees were appointed to administrate. These appointments are being promoted under the banner of «Arab mayors» and «providing services to the citizens», but the aim is political, i.e., to install elements who follow the Jordanian trend in accordance with the Amman accord and its results. The Chamber of Commerce, and the formation of mixed committees to take over the municipal councils, are two currents channeling into the plan which has been rejected by our people.

It seems that Arafat and the Palestinian rightist trend felt that they will come out of the settlement empty-handed, so they promoted the emergence of some figures to secure a role in the appointment policy. The talk about the appointments in Nablus indicates that the occupation authorities want to make it a precedent for similar steps in the other cities.

On the other hand, there is the firm, conscious stand of the people opposing this step and its goals, while adhering to the national program and cause, and demanding the return of the elected council without preconditions.

*Bashir Barghouti,
editor-in-chief of
«Al Talia», Jerusalem*

The appointment conspiracy in the municipal councils, the expulsion policy and the joint Israeli-Jordanian moves, are three links in the same political chain. We do not think that appointing the council is merely an innocent matter concerning public services. It is a political matter aiming to break a link in the Palestinian steadfastness. The forces who have agreed on this policy should know that the appointment matter is linked to the 'autonomy' conspiracy. The links between the appointments and the Palestinian section of the Camp David