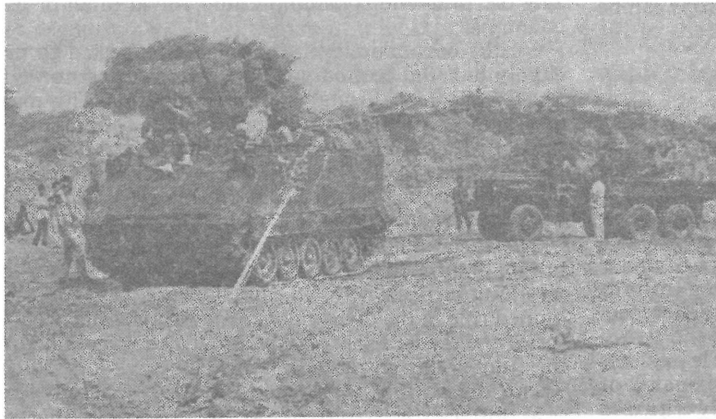

Amal Harasses Palestinians in Tyre Camps



Amal tanks that shelled Rashidiya on Oct. 2nd

Aggression against the Palestinian camps and people in Lebanon has not stopped. All indications point to the probability that the episodes of aggression will continue and spread. The camp wars in Beirut, the attempts to ignite the situation in Sidon through kidnappings and killings, and continued provocations against the Palestinian camps in the Tyre area, are all indicators of this.

The agreement which halted the camp wars has not prevented elements in the Amal movement from apprehending or kidnapping Palestinians who pass through their checkpoints on the southern and southeastern outskirts of Sidon. This aims at destroying the Lebanese-Palestinian alliance in the area. These elements from Amal were unable to ignite a war in the camps near Sidon, due to the awareness of the Palestinian and Lebanese masses and nationalist leadership there of the dangers of such a war. Unable to ignite the

strife they desired, these elements attempt to employ their tactics elsewhere. This explains the increase of incidents aimed at terrorizing Palestinian citizens in the camps near Tyre.

Since the Israeli withdrawal from Tyre, hundreds of Palestinians have been thrown into Amal's prisons in Ma'raka, Zifta and other villages. The Palestinian camps have been stormed tens of times. The common excuse for these continued waves of intimidation against civilians is searching for hidden arms, to prevent the situation from returning to the way it was before 1982.

In June this year, bulldozers driven by Amal elements, including some of their leaders in Tyre, demolished more than half of Jal Al Bahr camp. The fact that this camp is built on land of a wealthy landowner, called Mohammed Samhat, was considered ample justification for ousting whole families and rendering them homeless. Formerly, during the Israeli occupation, attempts were made to wipe out this camp, but

this was stopped through the efforts of Mohammed Sa'ad, a leader of Amal and the Lebanese National Resistance, who has since been martyred.

Amal has again taken to intimidating the masses. On September 3rd, Amal stormed Burj Al Shamali camp and paraded in the main roads, arresting four civilians. On the same day, Rashidiya camp was subject to sporadic bursts of machine-gun fire and mortar shelling.

On September 6th, Amal tried to stop bulldozers and trucks loaded with materials for a hospital that is being built in Rashidiya. The truck drivers were called in for interrogation and accused of carrying supplies to build shelters. When the drivers refused to answer the summons, Amal prevented all cars from entering and leaving the camps, and detained all trucks carrying building materials. Another truck carrying medicines was stopped, and released only after negotiations between Amal's Tyre leadership and Rashidiya's popular committees. These incidents indicate that to Amal, the work to serve and protect the Palestinian masses, as by building shelters, is considered a crime.

On the same day, the people were outraged when Amal elements brought Palestinians and Lebanese nationalists, whom they are holding prisoner, to donate blood to an Amal member who was suffering from a stomach ulcer. The doctors, however, refused to take blood from these prisoners.

As of September 8th, tension was still rising. Amal had Rashidiya under siege and prohibited entry or exit. A pregnant woman, in critical condition, was forbidden to leave the camp to obtain medical treatment.

Outside the camps, Palestinians were forbidden to cross Amal's checkpoints, risking arrest and humiliation. The number of forces surrounding the camps increased, as did the piling of sandbag barriers. All roads, even minor routes, leading to the camp were closed. All this portends the eruption of new episodes of camp wars, this time in Tyre. Amal's continued policy of intimidation and terror will probably spread to engulf all of the South and all areas of Lebanon where there are Palestinian camps. ●

The Lebanese Kaleidoscope

All through August and September, various hot spots in Lebanon have emerged as headline grabbers. Events oscillated between the battles of East Beirut in mid-August (which resurfaced towards the end of September), the convening of the committee for dialogue and the turmoil of the Hezbollah-Amal-UNIFIL conflict.

The inter-Lebanese Forces battles which took precedence towards the

middle of August were between two trends. The first is represented by Samir

Geagea whose Zionist-backed ultra-fascism rejects all tendencies towards a