

# The Israeli-Jordanian Di

Under the guise of 'improving the quality of life', 'Israel' and Jordan are dividing functions between them in order to impose their joint rule on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. In *Democratic Palestine* no. 19, we printed an article about the conception and intentions of this plan. Since then, the Israeli and Jordanian preparations for this plan have entered the stage of implementation, which is the subject of the article below.

It is difficult to list all the measures that have been taken by the Jordanian and Israeli governments in preparation for imposing the division of functions plan. In this article we will attempt to list the most recent steps that affect all aspects of the life of our masses in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. From the Jordanian side, these steps are being enacted in the framework of an economic development plan. The real intent of this plan is to reduce the political status of Palestinians in the West Bank to that of Palestinians in Jordan, i.e., subordinated to the monarchy and its policies. Far from improving the quality of life for our masses, the Israeli-Jordanian coordination aims to negate the role of the PLO and in general the Palestinian struggle for liberation, self-determination and an independent state.

## NEW GROUP OF STOOGES

In coordination with the Zionist authorities, the Jordanian regime has selected some of its supporters in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, to form a preparatory committee for the so-called Jordanian-Palestinian Gathering in the occupied territories, in order to market the Jordanian schemes among our masses. In September, the preparatory committee of this new Jordanian-backed organization distributed its third statement, setting out the «political principles for bringing together the masses in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip». On September 15th, the Jordanian daily, *Al Ra'i*, published the text of the statement that was entitled «Holy Unity Brings Together the Jordanian and Palestinian Peoples.»

The statement claimed that «wide-spread support» for the gathering had encouraged the preparatory committee to expand, in order to include representatives of all sectors of the people and all cities and villages of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The statement stressed that: «National unity between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples is a holy unity that represents the aims and aspirations of our Arab nation on the road to achieving the whole Arab unity.» and «The coordination between the PLO and Jordan is a national duty, due to the fact that the two peoples have the same aim and the same destiny.» In addition, the statement called on all parties to recognize all UN resolutions concerning the Palestinian cause, including resolution

242. The statement called for implementing these resolutions through an international peace conference, attended by all parties concerned and by the permanent members of the security council—in short, all the demagoguery used by the Jordanian regime to cover its moves towards direct negotiations with the Zionist enemy, cutting out any independent Palestinian representation.

This gathering is headed by Adnan Abu Oudeh, former Jordanian minister. It also includes members of the Jordanian parliament, right-wing Palestinian mayors such as Freij and Shawwa, Mustafa Doudeen of the defunct village leagues, and Othman Al Hallaq and Isam Al Anani of the newly established pro-Jordanian *Al Nahar* newspaper in Jerusalem. The gathering also enjoys the support of the renegade, Abu Zaim, who led the pro-Jordan split in Fatah. Abu Zaim is now seeking to form a Palestinian party in Jordan, in coordination with the Jordanian intelligence. The Jordanian regime has given full authority to Abu Zaim to maneuver within the Palestinian communities in Jordan. There he spreads his propaganda, agitating people to cease the armed struggle and revert to politics which, according to him, only King Hussein has mastered.

## TURNING PALESTINIANS INTO 'JORDANIANS'

Along the same lines, the Jordanian government has granted temporary passports to Gazans residing in Jordan. The September 16th issue of the Jordanian daily, *Al Dustour*, quoted a Jordanian official as saying that a joint committee, composed of officials from the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of the Occupied Territories Affairs, is finalizing procedures for issuing the passports. The official said that this decision is an extension of the decision to allow Gazans to own real estate in Jordan. Another decision was taken by the Jordanian government recently, allowing the residents of the Palestinian camps in Jordan to buy the houses they are living in. This decision has already been implemented in both Al Wehdah and Al Hussein camps. It is obvious that such a decision is aimed at gradually eliminating the Palestinian camps in preparation for achieving the US-Israeli wish to eliminate the UNRWA.

On October 9th, the Kuwaiti daily,

*Al Watan*, reported that reliable Palestinian sources have revealed that the Israeli authorities recently allowed some Palestinian personalities (former or present members of the Jordanian parliament, who are residing in the West Bank), to cross the bridges to and from Jordan in their own vehicles. The same sources said that the Israeli authorities are also in the process of issuing special passes to all taxi drivers that take passengers to Jordan, in order to facilitate the process of travel from the West Bank to Jordan.

## CAIRO—AMMAN BANK

On October 2nd, high level Israeli sources revealed that 'Israel' and Jordan had held direct, secret negotiations in London. In September, officials from both the Israeli and Jordanian central banks, and Shimon Peres' aide, participated in negotiations. A memorandum of understanding was drawn up and signed, regarding joint supervision of the reopening of the Cairo-Amman Bank's branch in the West Bank, for the first time after 19 years of occupation. The sources said that this was the first written agreement between Jordan and 'Israel' since the official state of war was declared in

*The appointed mayor of Al Bireh flanked by Israeli soldiers*

