

Al Rafa'i. In an interview with the Lebanese magazine, *Al Hawadeth*, August 22nd, he said «Jordan's financial situation does not allow it to finance the plan.» Therefore, he added, the money needed to make the plan possible will be provided by «the Arab and Islamic governments, Arab funds, European countries, the US, Canada and Japan» - ie., imperialist and reactionary forces.

In his last visit to Washington, King Hussein discussed the issue with the US government.⁽⁵⁾ US officials have recently said that Washington was very satisfied with the latest Jordanian procedures. They also said that Washington is searching for ways to incorporate the Israeli and Jordanian plans, in order to define the size of the aid that will be given.

In light of the developments towards implementing the plan for 'improving the quality of life', the Kuwaiti paper, *Al Watan*, on October 2nd, said that Britain and other European countries are planning to send representatives to Jordan in November, to look into a financial program for the West Bank and Gaza Strip, amounting to 100 million pounds. London radio quoted Timothy Rinton of the British foreign ministry, who visited Amman early in October, as saying that Britain will participate in the conference that will be held in Amman in November, to discuss the details of the financial aid.

Moreover, the EEC at its September 4th meeting in Brussels, approved a proposal allowing West Bank and Gaza Strip produce to be sold on EEC markets, offering Palestinian farmers conditions similar to those offered 'Israel', Jordan and other Mediterranean countries, such as a 60% decrease in tariffs. The EEC's head of development plans arranged for this deal when he visited Tel Aviv and Amman last year.

A spokesman of the EEC replied to those who warned of possible political consequences, saying, «There are no political aims behind the EEC's decision.» However, he added, «The committee had noticed that there is a deplorable situation,» pointing to the situation of the Palestinian farmers in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, who are being discriminated against.⁽⁶⁾

Related to this, the US is involved in funding the construction of a \$25 million highway linking Jericho in the West Bank, with Na'our in Jordan. This would facilitate the transport of products from the occupied territories to markets abroad. It could moreover be used by the Israelis to circumvent the Arab boycott against their products.

In Jordan, the official papers daily publish scores of government decisions to allocate tens of thousands of Jordanian dinars for the plan for 'improving the quality of life.' The Jordanian daily, *Al Ra'i*, reported on October 10th, that the Jordanian government had allocated 35,000 dinars to the literacy program and the unions of wel-

fare societies in the West Bank; 15,000 dinars to the union of welfare societies in Jerusalem, and 10,000 dinars to each union in Nablus and Al Khalil.

On October 9th, Dr. Al Qatanani, Jordanian deputy minister of Occupied Territories Affairs, received Mr. M. Abdul Fattah, the representative of medical laboratories and blood banks in the West Bank. The deputy minister promised to look into the needs of the medical labs and blood banks within the framework of the development plan for the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

On October 8th, *Al Ra'i* published a lecture by Marwan Doudeen, Jordanian Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs, entitled «The West Bank after Two Decades of Occupation.» In this, he said that the suspension of coordination between Jordan and the PLO meant termination of financing of the Steadfastness Fund that is supervised by Jordan and the PLO. According to Mr. Doudeen, this caused the Jordanian government to draw up its own program to finance the development plan, in order to resolve the crisis of the Palestinian people in the West Bank!

To all this 'aid', we can only say that the social, economic and health situation in the occupied territories has been deplorable for years. The sudden concern of the Jordanian and Western European governments smells suspiciously like bribery. The Palestinians under occupation are to be given some marginal benefits that don't alleviate the basic problem of occupation, in hopes that they will tie their fate to the Jordanian monarchy. Thus, the PLO could be cut out, and the Middle East conflict solved to the interests of imperialism, Zionism and reaction. The Gulf states' refusal to meet their financial commitments to the Palestinian National Fund (the PLO's treasury) shows Arab reaction's complicity in the plot to eliminate the PLO's role.

INFILTRATING THE TRADE UNIONS

It has also been decided to send a delegation of pro-Jordanians from West Bank trade unions to Amman, to meet with Marwan Doudeen and draw up a work plan, in order to control the trade unions by flooding the nationalist unions with new recruits.

Another decision recently taken by the Jordanian government is to appoint 70 new engineers to work in the municipalities of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In practice, this means flooding the Palestinian Engineers' Union with elements that are supportive of the Jordanian regime's policies. The Jordanian government also appointed a number of doctors and nurses in the different clinics and hospitals of the West Bank for the same purpose that it appointed the engineers. Recently the Jordanian government resumed payment to lawyers in the West Bank, taking over the previous funding role of the PLO-Jordanian Joint Committee. At the same time, the regime reinstated

lawyers who were previously suspended by the union for failure to abide by the 1967 decision to boycott the courts. The resumption of payments is an attempt to gain at least part of this sector of our people to the Jordanian regime's side. With the same aim, salaries have also been resumed to teachers, the largest single sector of employees in the West Bank.

DOUBLE IRON FIST

Along the same lines, a reshuffle in the Jordanian cabinet has resulted in the promotion of a hard-line, former intelligence officer to the important post of Minister of Interior. The appointment of Mr. Rajai Al Dajani, one of the few Palestinians to renewed attempts by Jordan to increase its influence in the occupied territories. This move is a signal to Jordan's men that the regime is determined to protect them from the wrath of our masses, particularly after the appointments of three mayors in the West Bank, by the Zionist authorities.

It is very obvious that both the Jordanian regime and the Zionist Labor party are determined to continue their conspiracy, and they have already taken concrete steps towards achieving it. Moreover, the Likud, headed by the new prime minister, Shamir, has not rejected the division of functions plan. In fact, Shamir has more than once expressed satisfaction with the Jordanian procedures, for these aim at eliminating the role of the PLO in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. What would Shamir and the Likud want more than liquidating the PLO and normalizing relations with Jordan, in order to reach the point of direct negotiations?

Shimon Peres has eliminated the Jordanian regime's fear that Shamir's government would work to deal a blow to the plan and abort the whole process. Early in September, Peres met Hikmat Al Masri, Vice-president of the Jordanian senate, and gave him a message to King Hussein, saying that the political trend of the coalition government will continue in one of two ways: Either Shamir will accept continuation of the same path, or Peres will disrupt the coalition after Shamir takes power, in order to have new Knesset elections. In this case, the Labor party will definitely take power, according to Peres.

It is worth mentioning that the Jordanian procedures were not confronted by the right-wing leadership of the PLO. The least the PLO leadership could do is to officially cancel the Amman agreement, especially since Jordan's foreign minister, Taher Al Masri, has said that all the measures taken by his government are based on the spirit of the Amman accords.

(1) *Al Nahar*, October 3, 1986.

(2) *Al Safir*, September 19, 1986.

(3) *op. cit.*, September 29, 1986.

(4) *The Guardian*, September 20, 1986.

(5) *Al Fursan*, July 1986.

(6) *Al Safir*, September 5, 1985.