

internationalists are giving priority to supporting Nicaragua and the struggle against apartheid. The Danish Seaman's Union does a lot of international political work as well as trade union struggle. In coordination with other unions, they devote much effort to the fight against apartheid, and are part of an international network to discover and stop arms shipments to South Africa.

LIBERATION (BRITAIN)

Our correspondent interviewed Tony Gilbert, general secretary of Liberation that was formed fifty years ago as the League Against Imperialism. In Britain, all the major trade unions are affiliated to Liberation, and over 100 MPs are sponsors. Tony Gilbert told the following about the progress of solidarity with the Palestinians in Britain:

«In the Middle East, the dangers to world peace are great. Imperialism has got roots and the support of reactionary regimes, chief of all, Israel. It is beginning to be understood in Britain, that unless the struggle for the liberation of the Palestinians, the ending of now 20 years of military occupation of

Palestinian lands, is resolved, there can be many wars in the Middle East, but there could be an even greater one. Therefore we are turning our attention in particular to the question of the Middle East, and with success. Even five or six years ago, there was confusion in the British labor and progressive movement. Many progressive MPs called themselves Labor Friends of Israel, because the Israelis traded on the 6 million dead as if the Palestinians were responsible for the deaths in the concentration camps. They have used the holocaust, but as they moved into more and more aggression in the Middle East, people began to realize that this is not defense. Sabra and Shatila will never be forgotten. The Israeli occupation forces are now treading the very same ground and using the very same methods as the Nazis used in their concentration camps.

«Now we have helped to organize Labor Friends of Palestine, Trade Union Friends of Palestine. We are beginning, in Britain, to have the Zionists on the run. Our job now is to expose them fully, so that everybody understands that peace and justice in the Middle East depend in the main on freedom for the Palestinians...»

In general, the peace conference in Copenhagen presented a great opportunity to meet with progressive forces from all over the world. In addition to those we have mentioned in the previous article, our correspondent had the opportunity to interview: SWAPO of Namibia, ANC of South Africa, POLISARIO, the Communist Party of India, comrades from Afghanistan, the Tudeh Party and Fedayeen Majority from Iran, British Labor MP Ernie Roberts, leaders of the World Peace Council from different countries, the Communist Party of Cuba, Farabundo Marti from El Salvador, comrades from Nicaragua, and the Left Socialist Party of Denmark. Unfortunately, time and space limitations prevent us from printing more than two of the many useful interviews.

Gus Newport

Interview with Gus Newport, mayor of Berkeley, California, and US vice-president of the World Peace Council

From your position in the World Peace Council, how do you see the US's role in world peace?

The US is certainly the no. 1 perpetrator against any peaceful solutions or reasonable agreement for a test ban, etc. It is certainly the no. 1 violator of the rights of third world countries, because of its imperialist, expansionist tactics. One has only to look at its support to 'constructive engagement' in South Africa, its continued aid to the contras in Nicaragua and to the government in El Salvador which is fighting a criminal war, its use of Israel as a supplier of weapons to dictatorships throughout the world. It has constantly responded only to Israel in the Middle East, and won't even consider or include the Palestinian people in any negotiations for a peaceful solution... Our foreign policy is strictly dictated by protecting investments and multinational corporations. Very few Americans are aware of this, but I think more and more are becoming aware, because it drains the resources of our cities. As the defense budget increases, resources for human needs in the United States decrease, so we have a high rate of unemployment, a lot of drug use, school drop-outs, people losing their homes and sleeping in the street. The working class people in the United States has become the victim of our foreign policies.

Doesn't this put a direct relationship between people in the third world and people in the US, who are both adversely affected by this policy?

That's a fact. I think that the freedom of the people of the third world is tied directly to the freedom of the people of color in the US, and vice versa. The US continues expanding its world markets. It then exports blue collar industrial jobs to

cheap labor markets, to take advantage of paying slave wages to people of the third world. These are the types of jobs that Black people, Hispanics, Asian, people of color in general are most qualified to work in the US. So it creates unemployment, unrest, human disaffection, etc. The sooner that the people of South Africa, the Palestinians and others become free, the sooner the people in US inner cities become free, because those jobs then revert back to our people, because as you people become free, you will negotiate meaningful wages...

What is your view of the Palestinian question?

The Palestinians have received the worst treatment of any people in the world. What's happening in Palestine is another apartheid situation. Often when you discuss the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, especially with people of the Israeli lobby, they will suggest that to take a stand on the side of the Palestinian people is anti-Semitic. I always remind such people that the Palestinians and Arabs are Semites too. What about them?

Furthermore, the facts being created in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are more and more violating the rightful lands of the Palestinian people... The Zionists always say that the PLO has never respected their right to secure borders. My response is that nobody knows what borders you're talking about - those of 1947, or those after the 1967 war? Of course, they always define the Palestinians, Nicaraguans and Cubans as terrorists. Terrorism is always defined from without, never from within. I know what is happening in the case of the Palestinians and other third world peoples is a political response, because of their demand to establish self-determination for themselves. The true terrorists are the United States, Israel and Great Britain who have chosen to make illegal strikes against Lebanese civilians, Gaddafi, Grenada, etc. We have to redefine terrorism in our words...

If we had some principled politicians in the US, they would cut off all aid to Israel immediately, both because of its criminal acts against the Palestinian people and as arms supplier to totalitarian governments that are oppressing their people. I