

the Phalangists' plans for Lebanon. Amal's fascist character is being manifested daily, not only through its savage war against the Palestinians, but also as its covert war against the Lebanese nationalist and progressive forces has become overt.

On February 18th, there was an assassination attempt against the distinguished nationalist leader, Mustafa Saad, leader of the Popular

Nasserite Organization of Sidon. The same day, there was an attempt to assassinate the central security officer of the Progressive Socialist Party. In both cases, the intended victims were passing through an Amal-controlled area. Amal later tried to play down the seriousness of these attempts by claiming that they were only unfortunate misunderstandings. Another premeditated 'misunderstanding' was

the murder of Hussein Mroweh, Central Committee member of the Lebanese Communist Party (see article in this issue). It is clear that these crimes are part of Amal's efforts to impose its hegemony on the nationalist arena, ultimately imposing itself as the representative of the Lebanese nationalist forces, in the hope of gaining the lion's share in a new sectarian redivision of power. It is no secret that other nationalist forces, such as the Progressive Socialist Party and the Popular Nasserite Organization, pose real obstacles for the imposition of such plans.

Amal has long been launching provocations against the nationalist and progressive forces. The latest attempt by Amal to curtail the influence of the nationalist and progressive forces in West Beirut, was its war against the Lebanese Communist Party and others, which erupted on February 17th.

Amal's war of attrition against Palestinian national presence in Lebanon, like its war on Lebanese communists, progressives and nationalists, are preliminary moves to project its own willingness to comply with the current moves to impose sectarian projects in Beirut, and a division of labor with 'Israel' in the South.

In conclusion, it is important to reaffirm the basics for facing this war of attrition on the Palestinian and Lebanese levels. All Palestinian nationalist forces should safeguard the unity in the field achieved in defending the camps, to prevent any inter-Palestinian fighting. Parallel to this is working to restore the PLO's unity on a correct political and organizational basis; this begins with the official cancellation of the Amman accord and ending relations with the Egyptian regime. Relations with the Lebanese nationalist and progressive forces must be consolidated on the basis of safeguarding the right of the Palestinians to nationalist armed presence in Lebanon. All nationalist and progressive forces must intensify their efforts to end Amal's bloody war on the camps. The campaigns of solidarity with the Palestinians in the besieged camps must be intensified on the Arab and international levels.

Palestinian mother hugs her siege-starved child.

