

tional conference is solving the problems of Soviet Jewry and finding a substitute for the PLO!!!

About the Jordanian 'development' plan, Spadolini said that «despite its economic nature, it is connected with an international conference.» This uncovered Spadolini's real goals, since the basic thrust of the 'development' plan is negating the PLO's role and finding substitutes.

STICK AND CARROT

The flood of western 'thought and fact gatherers' continued. Australia's prime minister, Bob Hawke, visited the region on January 23rd. His visit included Jordan, 'Israel' and Egypt, where else?

Earlier in the same month, the Australian government had strongly objected to hosting a UN-sponsored international forum to discuss the

Palestinian problem, refusing to allow a PLO delegation to attend. Still, Hawke followed in the path of the other western diplomatic brokers. In line with the stick-and-carrot policy, he said that «Australia is willing to recognize the PLO if the PLO recognizes Israel's right to exist.» Hawke also expressed his approval of the Jordanian 'development' plan, showing that he adheres to the imperialist consensus on negating the PLO's role.

After meeting in Alexandria with Peres in September 1986, Mubarak predicted that 1987 would be the year of 'peace'. In imperialist-reactionary jargon, this was no mere slip of the tongue. Imperialism's effort to impose a capitulationist settlement in the region has steadily escalated, especially seeing that there are Arab regimes fully willing to cooperate. In this effort to

impose US hegemony in the Middle East, the role of other western states is obvious, as are the disputes in 'Israel' about an international conference. All this attempts to spread illusions about the nature of the settlement being promoted, and to lure more Arab partners into negotiations with the Zionist enemy. This is the carrot, all the while the US Sixth Fleet is threatening Lebanon and the Gulf, enacting the stick part of the US's policy.

In contrast to the dreams of Arab reaction, peace in the region cannot be achieved by following the lies and conspiracies of the US, or by accepting the imperialist-Zionist conditions. Genuine peace will only be achieved by ending the secondary conflicts that now divide the anti-imperialist forces, enabling stronger resistance of the enemy plans, and escalating the struggle against US-Zionist control of the region. ●

New Wave of Arrests in Jordan

'Housecleaning' for Reagan

The arrest of comrade Azmi Al Khawaja (Abu Issam), and other nationalist and democratic militants in Jordan, coincided with the end of Richard Murphy's visit to the region. The purpose of Murphy's trip was to dictate the US administration's conditions for a capitulationist solution to the Palestinian issue, by making Jordan participate in direct negotiations with the Zionists. On this basis, the Jordanian regime directed its activities to reorganize the internal situation, escalating its campaign against nationalist and democratic persons and organizations. At the same time, the regime continues with the division of functions policy with the Zionist entity to impose joint Israeli-Jordanian rule on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. This policy is seen in the appointment of mayors, the Jordanian development plan and the opening of branches of Jordanian banks in the occupied territories. All this means a policy of normalizing relations between Jordan and 'Israel' prior to the signing of a formal peace treaty. The arrest and

oppression campaign is the Jordanian regime's certificate of 'good conduct' for its American masters.

Below is an account of the Jordanian regime's most recent repressive campaign as was issued in a memorandum by the General Secretariat of the Committees for the Defense of Democratic Freedoms in Jordan:

The days and weeks since the start of this year have been characterized by an increase in the severity of oppression and civil rights' violations. This was apparent in the authorities' broad campaign arresting citizens from the various popular and syndical circles, affecting unionists and nationalist leaders in particular. In addition, several detained political and union activists were brought before the military court and tyrannically sentenced to jail terms of varying lengths. The security forces expanded the scope of their interference in the work of the workers' unions and student organizations. There were added restrictions on the press and journalists, and other such human rights' violations.

ARRESTS

Concerning the authorities' wide arrest campaign, the main incident was the arrest of Mr. Azmi Al Khawaja, member of the PFLP's Politbureau, the Palestinian National Council and the Jordanian Peace and Solidarity Committee. The General Intelligence arrested Mr. Khawaja on January 12, 1987, in his home in Amman. He was put in solitary confinement where he is currently subjected to savage torture and humiliating treatment. It is worth mentioning that Mr. Khawaja is 50 years old, married and has four sons, and suffers severe diseases in his stomach and kidneys due to successive long-term detentions in Jordanian jails. He once spent 30 continual months in solitary confinement without the minimal health and humanitarian conditions.

At the beginning of this year, the authorities arrested the known union activist, Mr. Ali Abdel Malek, former president of the executive committee of the UNRWA teachers' council in Jordan, and present member of the council's executive committee. The authorities have refused to disclose why ►