

blind condemnation only serves to exacerbate the problem of «terrorism.» The context that the American audience had not the chance to take into consideration was that the Ma'alot «terrorist» attack was preceded by «weeks of sustained Israeli napalm bombing of Palestinian refugee camps in southern Lebanon»² killing over 200. This crucial context is not justification, but an explanation; an explanation that is too often edited out for the purpose of effacing public opinion.

Israel's leading partner or, I'm more inclined to say, conspirator is the United States (the U.S. is the de-facto representative for the Western world; therefore, we may deduce, in a more abstract sense, that the conspiracy against the Arab people and more specifically the Palestinians is Western-Israeli). This «special» relationship is a dialectical process that opts to keep the Palestinians under a canopy of oppression.

Undoubtedly the most powerful lobby in Washington is AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee). AIPAC is the principle architect of the systematic «pro-Israel» policy in the Congress, Executive branch and the Pentagon (remember that AIPAC is but one element in the larger picture of Zionist influence in the West). From 1948 to 1981, the U.S. has poured \$42 billion (this includes public and private aid) into Israel. For fiscal year 1978 to 1982, Israel received 48% of all U.S. military aid and 35% of U.S. economic aid, worldwide. In 1983, the Reagan administration requested almost \$2.5 billion out of a total aid budget of \$8.1 billion (this included \$500 million in grants and \$1.2 billion in low-interest loans).³ There is strong evidence that the 1982 invasion of Lebanon («Operation Peace for Galilee») was backed by the United States, as Meir Pail writes: «All signs indicate that the U.S. gave reasonable political backing to the IDF [Israel Defence Forces] invasion of Lebanon, even when it became clear that it was delivering a heavy blow both on land and air to the Syrians in Lebanon.»⁴ Pentagon figures «reveal a massive surge of military supplies from the U.S. to Israel in the first three months of [1982].»⁵ Note that the invasion began on June 6, 1982. In 1982, military aid to Israel was almost 50% greater than the preceding year. It is indeed an unfortunate tragedy that the U.S. pours

billions of dollars into Israel (an illegitimate entity that continues to deprive another people of their fundamental right of self-determination on their homeland-Palestine).

The United States supplies Israel with state-of-the-art technology to be used unconditionally for the destruction of a whole people-the Palestinians. How do millions of defenceless Palestinians defend themselves against F14's, F15's, smart bombs... etc? Would the label of «barbarism» apply to Israel when they advertize a bomb being dropped over defenceless people with the caption saying: «Bombs you can count on to do what they're supposed to do. That's the only kind of bomb we make.»⁶

Hitherto, I used the term «terrorism» in quotes for a good many reasons. The term has no clear definition; there is no absolute standard by which one can juxtapose a particular act of violence to determine if it is «terrorism» or not. Each definition is a function of political means or ideological ends. The U.S. constructs a Manichean definition to depict those who confront her foreign policy as «terrorist.» According to Washington, «Terrorism in any cause is the enemy of freedom» and unless punished by «democracies» who have a «moral right» to do so, the foundations of «civilized» society will be undermined.⁷ Such rhetoric, when analyzed critically, is grossly naive and ethnocentric. Moreover, the underlying assumption behind the term «civilized society» is that there are certain societies who are «uncivilized,» who harbor «uncivilized» individuals that commit «terrorist» acts. Israel, on the other hand, is an ally of the U.S. and, therefore, enjoys linguistic immunity. I have also used the term «terrorism» in

quotes, so that I may describe American-Israeli-Palestinian violence without using connotative terms.

When Palestinians employ violent means in their struggle against Israel and, granted, this violence is at times directed towards civilian population (the PLO, Palestine Liberation Organization, has repeatedly condemned violence directed towards civilians), we may condemn such acts morally and politically, but condemnation does not explain why such violence occurs and how we can prevent them. We need to analyze the causal forces that underlie «terrorism.» The socio-anthropological conditions in which the Palestinians live is a variable usually overlooked. The Palestinians have been forced off their land; disenfranchized, defamed and denied their fundamental and human right of self-determination. The Palestinians in Lebanon live under constant Israeli raids that have become banal «retaliation» for Western-Israeli media. The Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip cannot vote or express themselves freely; they are dehumanized in their own home-Palestine. In short, life for the Palestinians has become nihilistic. When a Palestinian witnesses his whole family massacred by Israeli bombs, supplied by the United States, his rational mode of reasoning ultimately loses out to irrational behavior. Let us term this form of violence oppressed-based-violence. Oppressed-based-violence is a socio-political disease created by the oppressor, maintained by the oppressor and can be eliminated by the oppressor. When the U.S. and Israel use ultra-technology to destroy other people, that is terrorism with all of its connotation. Terrorism is those who are in power (the U.S. and Israel) employing violent means to keep those who oppose them in a subaltern position, and posturing to be «civilized.»

US demonstration against state terrorism



1. E.H. Hutchison, *Violent Truce*, Devin-Adair, New York, 1956.
2. Edward Said, *Question of Palestine*, pp. 172, 149.
3. Noam Chomsky, *The Fateful Triangle*, p. 10.
4. Meir Pail, *A Military Analysis*.
5. Claudia Wright, *New Statesman*, Aug. 20, 1982.
6. Aharon Abramovitz, *Ma'ariv*, Aug. 20, 1982.
7. Address by George Shultz, Secretary of State, «Terrorism and the Modern World.» Washington: Bureau of Public Affairs, Department of State, *Current Policy* No.629, October, 1948.

★ Qibya is in the West Bank, Palestine. At that time, it was under Jordanian jurisdiction.