

ed down in its war on Vietnam to intervene elsewhere on a large scale. The Zionist leadership eyed the chance to assert its role in defending imperialist interests in the Middle East.

The Zionists had already been encouraged by the first major delivery of US arms in 1962 (Hawk missiles). In the years 1964-6, under the Johnson Administration, a «new, unprecedented covert military-security relationship was forged»⁸ between the US and the Zionist state, motivated by concern over the advance of the Arab national liberation movement and Soviet influence in the area. In this sense, the Zionist state, via the 1967 aggression, provided the model for the subsequently devised Nixon Doctrine for local gendarme regimes to enforce US policy in the 'third world'. With increasing international polarization between the pro- and anti-liberation forces, 'Israel' wanted to show it could take care of the liberation movement in the Middle East. Also, in view of its political and military aims, and economic needs, 'Israel' had begun to develop its arms industry for export; it needed a testing field to show its wares.

These goals dovetailed with Zionism's inherent ambitions to wipe out the Palestinians as a people, for they would all be uprooted or subject to occupation. By occupying more Arab land, the Israelis would confront the Arab regimes with a new status quo, to force them to negotiate 'peace' on unequivocally pro-Zionist conditions. 'Israel' had begun detailed planning of a military government for the West Bank in 1962,⁹ relying on the experience of having imposed martial law on the Palestinians under occupation since 1948. Throughout the early sixties, provocative raids were periodically launched against neighboring countries, especially Syria. In May 1967, such provocations led Nasser to close the Straits of Tiran to Israeli ships and to station troops in the Sinai. Though the closure had minimal economic effects on 'Israel' and the troops in the Sinai were less than needed to defend the area, 'Israel' used these measures as the pretext for air attacks on Syria, Jordan and Egypt on June 5th, igniting the six-day war.

Israeli Prime Minister Eshkol had asked for US support if the Soviet Union were to intervene. President Johnson had authorized emergency arms shipments to 'Israel' on May 23rd, and the entire 6th Fleet was despatched to the Mediterranean. In fact, the US itself had plans for intervention if the Israelis did not fare well in combat. As it turned out, the most meaningful US support came in the form of a secret operation whose full dimensions have only recently been revealed.

On June 3rd, the 38th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron of the US air force was secretly flown from Ramstein, West Germany, to a US base in Spain, purportedly for a NATO exercise. There it was joined by cargo planes with reconnaissance equipment and technicians of the US 17th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, flown from Upper Heyford, England. By June 4th, these forces were in the Negev, their planes painted as Israeli planes and the US pilots equipped with papers to appear as civilian contract employees hired by the Israeli government. On June 5th, they began overflights, surveying the damage inflicted on the Syrian, Egyptian and Jordanian armed forces, making films that were delivered to 'Israel' and the US. On June 8th and 9th, they made night reconnaissance flights with phosphorous after most of the Arabs' planes were destroyed, to ferret out troop movements. The next day, 'Israel' staged air attacks to devastate the retreating troops. Without this US reconnaissance, 'Israel' would have been totally unable to capture the amount of territory it did in such a short time.¹⁰

Protected by the US umbrella, the Israeli forces not only knocked out three Arab armies. They began their still ongoing drive to Judaize the West Bank and Gaza Strip, relentlessly attacking Palestinian civilians, to force them from their homeland. As the US was becoming notorious for dumping napalm on Vietnamese children, the Zionists were spewing the same lethal product down on fleeing civilians. On June 6th, while only isolated elements of the Jordanian army were still fighting, the Israeli air force made a series of strikes on the West Bank where there were no military forces or positions. On June 8th, as the United Arab Republic accepted the UN ceasefire, Israeli planes were bombing Mafraq, on the outskirts of Amman. A UPI despatch of June 11th reported Israeli planes strafing refugees running for safety. In the Latrun area, on the Jerusalem-Ramle road, three villages, Imwas, Yalu and Beit Nubah, home of 10,000 Palestinians, were dynamited and bulldozed out of existence. Their residents were rounded up and expelled with only the clothes on their backs by the Zionist army's 4th brigade on its way to the Jordan River. Two-thirds of Qalqilia was destroyed in the same operation. In June 1967 during, but mostly right after the fighting, 200,000 Palestinians were expelled from the West Bank; another 200,000 were expelled in the following months, many of them from the Gaza Strip.¹¹

STATE WITHOUT BORDERS AGGRESSION WITHOUT LIMITS

For reasons of space, we will stop our review of the Arab-Zionist wars at this point. The next war - October 1973 - was, as stated earlier, the Arab bourgeois regime's response, though an insufficient one, to the 1967 Zionist expansion. The course of the October war demonstrated the US's readiness to go all out to rescue the Zionist state from even partial threats. The aftermath has been a concerted Israeli-US political and military onslaught to impose stability in the region under their joint domination, culminating in the US-sponsored, all-out Israeli war on the PLO and Lebanon in 1982. The 1982 war exposed to the world the full dimension of Israeli aggression, which as we have tried to point out here, was equally the case in the prior wars.

The Zionist state, by virtue of its goals and mode of creation, assigned itself to a perpetual condition of war, making it an ideal tool for striking anti-imperialist forces in the region. The ultimate result of the Israeli drive for total domination is the development of nuclear weapons, which we will cover in the next installment of this study.

¹ Green, Stephen, *Taking Sides: America's Secret Relations with a Militant Israel*, New York: William Morrow and Co., Inc., 1984, p. 74.

² Gabriel, Richard A., *Operation Peace for Galilee*, New York, Hill and Wang, 1984, p. 11. (This book is both full of deliberate lies to defame the PLO and other errors which appear to be pure carelessness. However, Gabriel is a former US intelligence officer and enjoys close ties with the Israeli military establishment, so we include reference to his book on such matters.)

³ Rabinovich, Itamar and Jehuda Reinharz (editors), *Israel in the Middle East*, Oxford University Press, 1984, p. 25.

⁴ both quotes from Hadawi, Sami, *Palestine in Focus*, Beirut: PLO Research Center, 1968, pages 10-12.

⁵ quoted in Green, *op. cit.*, p. 85.

⁶ *ibid*, p. 99.

⁷ *ibid*, p. 144.

⁸ *ibid*, p. 180.

⁹ *Journal of Palestine Studies*, no. 59, Spring 1986, p. 125.

¹⁰ Green, *op. cit.*, pages 205-8.

¹¹ Hadawi, *op. cit.*, p. 104.