

Jordanian-Israeli Secret Collaboration

A series of secret agreements show the seriousness of the collaboration between the Zionist occupiers and the Jordanian monarchy, whereby the two intend to impose their joint administration on the West Bank, to the detriment of the Palestinian masses' struggle for liberation and statehood.

On May 21st, the Israeli newspaper *Hatsofieh* published the text of the memorandum of understanding agreed upon by Jordan's King Hussein and Israeli Foreign Minister Peres at their unpublicized meeting in London on April 11th. The secret document was entitled «An agreement between the government of Jordan and the Israeli foreign minister, with US consent» (See box for text.)

Although there was news about this meeting in the international press, the Jordanian government ignored the reports. Denying them would have elicited Israeli anger, leading to the exposure of further details. Confirming them, on the other hand, would have caused unfavorable reactions from Arab nationalist regimes and forces. The monarchy's only choice was to remain silent. Such silence is nothing new. It is a part of the well-established Jordanian policy of working behind-the-scenes. Since late 1985, the Jordanian government has been quietly normalizing relations with 'Israel' prior to signing an overt agreement.

Since late 1985, the Jordanian regime has been raising such slogans as «improving the standard of living for West Bank and Gaza Strip residents.» This is a cover for the agreement on joint administration of these occupied territories, reached with Peres on October 1, 1985, while he was prime minister. (See box.) Ever since this agreement, the Jordanian regime has exhausted all efforts to promote joint administration. To this end, the regime supported Israeli appointment of West Bank mayors, whereby pro-Jordanian figures would replace the legitimate, elected mayors who had been dismissed by the occupation authorities. A few months

later, King Hussein halted coordination with the PLO leadership and worked to find or create an alternative leadership. Later, the monarchy adopted a five-year development plan for the West Bank and Gaza Strip, to help provide an economic base for broader sectors of the Palestinian bourgeoisie, linked to Jordan. Moreover, branches of Jordanian banks were reopened in the 1967 occupied territories.

However, this policy was strongly resisted by the Palestinian masses in the occupied territories, who reaffirmed their undisputed support to their sole, legitimate representative, the PLO. Later, the Jordanian regime was

disappointed by the cancellation of the Amman accord, and the restoration of the PLO's unity and nationalist program in April this year. Nonetheless, the regime continued the same policy, reaffirming its dedication to the success of US imperialist policy in the region.

In contrast, 'Israel' did not live up to its end of the deal. The construction of settlements continued. There was no decrease in Israeli military presence, much less the cancellation of military rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, as had been pledged by Peres in order to improve the population's quality of life and give them broader powers to administer their own affairs.

HUSSEIN'S TOTAL SURRENDER

On February 3, 1987, the Israeli daily *Haaretz* published the agreement on an international conference reached between King Hussein and Peres. (See box for text.) Reviewing the terms of this

Memorandum of Understanding - Concluded between King Hussein and Foreign Minister Peres

1. Israel's phased withdrawal from most of the West Bank and Gaza Strip territories.
2. 85% of the West Bank and Gaza Strip territories would be under Arab supervision or control.
3. The Israeli army is allowed to occupy defensive posts along the Jordan Valley for several years.
4. Israelis are allowed to live in the Arab-controlled West Bank.
5. The establishment of an Arab-Israeli joint administration for the unified Jerusalem. An Arab force would be established to patrol East Jerusalem. The Israeli flag should fly over the Wailing Wall.
6. Introduction of a project for establishing Arab and Jewish quarters, or establishing independent regional or local councils working under unified

and expanded Arab-Israeli supervision.

7. Establishing special (extra) regional passageways between the Jordan River and the West Bank, and between Jordan and the Gaza Strip.

Source: *Hatsofieh*, May 21, 1987; reprint from *The Atlanta Constitution*.

The document also states that the first stage, which is a transitional stage, includes:

1. establishing an Israeli-Jordanian authority authorized by a joint Israeli-Jordanian cooperation.
2. A Jordanian police force is formed for eastern united Jerusalem, whereas the Israeli flag would fly over the Wailing Wall.
3. No new settlements would be established in the territories during this stage.
4. The settlement in this stage is functional and not a regional one.

Source: *Davar*, May 8, 1987.