

government in Ghana. In 1983, the Israeli secret service, Mossad, was reported to have worked with the US and British intelligence services to promote mercenaries who should incite ethnic divisions in Ghana. In 1984, Ghana's government criticized Togo and the Ivory Coast for harboring mercenaries. According to the *Washington Post*, June 15, 1986, «... two years ago, Israeli intelligence helped the CIA find an officer who had been kidnapped by the Ethiopian government.» (What the *Post* describes as 'kidnapping' was the Ethiopian government's legitimate effort to unravel a CIA plot against the country.) In Nigeria, a country threatened with division under the guise of religious differences, «Israel has also been funding various movements, clandestine and otherwise, whose main goals seem to be to run anti-Arab, anti-Islamic and anti-communist crusades» (*Guardian*, July 24, 1987).

Despite its proclaimed democratic ideals, the Zionist state finds it useful to aid repressive regimes. Faced with recurring opposition, these regimes need outside help to stay in power and are thus vulnerable to manipulation, while 'Israel' gains a market for its military hardware and expertise. The presidents of Zaire, Liberia and Cameroon are all three protected by Israeli-trained elite units, while the Israeli ambassador to Liberia is a former inspector general of police (*International Herald Tribune*, July 28, 1987). Cameroon's president, Paul Biya, established a security department managed by Mossad agents after the coup attempt of April 1984. In Malawi, which never broke relations with 'Israel', the state youth movement was established by advisers from Gadna and Nahal (official Israeli paramilitary formations). This youth movement «is used as the tyrant's private instrument for murdering political opponents, terrorizing workers by flogging, and torturing anyone who dares to doubt the divine wisdom of the nation's 'father' Dr. Benda» (Israel Shahak, *Israel's Global Role: Weapons for Repression*).

Israeli help was pivotal in helping Liberia's President Doe survive a coup attempt in November 1985, after he had narrowly won in rigged elections. According to Liberians present in Monrovia at the time, the Israeli embassy jammed the communications system of the Patriotic Forces that attempted the coup. Israeli forces wearing Liberian army uniform retook the radio station captured by the coupists (*Israeli Foreign Affairs*, March 1986). Soon afterwards, there was an Israeli-Liberian agreement on cooperation against 'international terrorism' (Zionist-imperialist double talk for liberation movements). «Israeli experts have recently conducted seminars in Monrovia on how to deal with terrorists» (*Jerusalem Post*, June 18, 1986). While Doe's main concern is simply staying in power, the Zionist state scores points in the reactionary campaign to blur the contradiction between imperialism and the underdeveloped countries, by blaming all problems on so-called terrorism.

## EXPLOITING FAMINE

In its efforts to penetrate Black Africa, Zionist officials hold out the carrot of development aid, advertising Israeli expertise in agricultural, infrastructural, medical and industrial projects. The old Zionist myth of having made 'the desert bloom' in occupied Palestine has been used since the initial phase of Israeli activities in Africa. In the eighties, it is marketed with new vigour, capitalizing on the prevailing famine. In addition, African states are led to believe that the Zionist lobby will help procure more US aid. Though this lobby has few qualms about promoting regimes with bad human rights records, like Zaire

and Liberia, these efforts have not yielded the desired fruit. So far, the most prominent Israeli endeavor in relation to the famine in Africa was using this as justification for the airlift of Ethiopian Jews to 'Israel'. The real aim of this operation was not humanitarian aid but increasing the settler population in occupied Palestine, despite the fact that as Black Africans, the Ethiopian Jews encountered harsh racism and were forced to prove their 'Jewishness' upon arrival in the 'promised land'.

All in all, Israeli aid to Africa is much exaggerated. At a symposium in Ghana on Israeli policies towards sub-Saharan Africa, one speaker told the forum: «Israeli assistance has at most represented 0.5% of all foreign aid to African nations, while much of its largesse takes the form of military supplies and training» (*US Guardian*, September 18, 1985). In addition to the Israeli weapons industry, the beneficiaries of Israeli projects are likely to be the CIA, the Mossad and the apartheid regime's intelligence service (BOSS) that specializes in destabilization, terror raids and death squad-style executions of ANC cadres in various African countries, having already disposed of Mozambique's revolutionary leader Samora Machel.

Over the years, the US has sent millions of dollars in covert aid to 'Israel' for operations in Africa, according to the *Washington Post*, June 15, 1986, which also noted that the knowledge gained in these efforts helped the Israelis in their 1976 raid on Entebbe airport in Uganda. The presence of thousands of Israelis working on various aid projects and economic enterprises in African countries provides an ideal cover for the Mossad's intelligence gathering and covert operations.

## PERPETUATING SUBORDINATION

'Israel' has extensive economic activities in Africa, often in the absence of diplomatic relations. These have a more subtle but just as subversive role in that they maintain African countries' subordination to foreign capitalist interests. African leaders, who are truly concerned about their countries' independence and growth prospects, should evaluate the question of relations to the Zionist state in terms of their own national interests.

Many of the Israeli economic activities in Africa are related to luxury projects or the rulers' personal wealth and prestige. For example, in the Ivory Coast, some of the 300 Israeli experts working there are involved in managing the president's pineapple plantation. In the capital, Abidjan, Israeli contractors recently completed an enormous cathedral as well as hotels. «The luxury hotels, the palaces for the rulers, the monopolistic companies - all this was and is built in close cooperation with Israel, first and foremost with the Histadrut-owned corporations and secondarily with private companies» (Shahak, *ibid*). Thus, the Israeli role reinforces the social disparities in a country where 80% of property belongs to the president, his family and a few select cronies.

A branch of the Histadrut construction company, Soleh Boneh, which builds settlements in the occupied West Bank, is also active in Cameroon. Thousands of Israelis, many of them retired military officers, are working as experts in Cameroon in the fields of agriculture, tourism and industry, as well as in the military and security departments. The Israeli company, Yona International, is erecting a new defense ministry building in Monrovia, and has also secured a concession for felling and marketing Liberian timber, using equipment brought in from 'Israel'.