

tional conference, with the Palestinians participating in a joint Jordanian delegation.

On the other hand, efforts to merge the Citizens Rights Movement and Mapam failed, but the two agreed on electoral coordination. These parties call for Israeli withdrawal from the (1967) occupied territories lest 'Israel' become a binational state.

ISRAELI PROTEST

Beyond the realm of official party politics, there have been a series of protests against Israeli brutality in the territories. Peace Now and Down with the Occupation organized the biggest demonstrations in 'Israel' since the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon. On December 19th, 3,000 marched in Tel Aviv in protest of the government's measures in the occupied territories. Again in Tel Aviv, during the seventh week of the uprising, 100,000 Israelis demonstrated in support of a political solution. On March 12th, in Tel Aviv, 100,000 Israelis marched, demanding Israeli withdrawal from the (1967) occupied territories. Peace Now leader Tzali Rashiv delivered a speech, emphasizing that peace could not be established between occupier and occupied, but between two equals.

Since December, there has been a wave of smaller-scale protests as well, some of them expressing direct solidarity with the Palestinians under siege. Another significant expression of dissent was the statement, signed by over 600 Israeli academics, including the former president of the Hebrew University, expressing grave concern about the future of 'Israel'. According to the *Jerusalem Post*, February 2nd, these academics have joined in a campaign to end the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and are working to spread the campaign to all the Israeli universities.

Perhaps the most important dissent was that which emerged among soldiers. By the third week of the Palestinian uprising, over 160 reservists and new draftees had refused to serve in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. There is a Limit, the movement that emerged among soldiers during the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, distributed a statement declaring that they would not

be «blind weapons in anyone's hand.» Israeli soldiers were called upon to desist from participation in repression. The statement noted that twenty years of occupation and repression had not stopped the Palestinians from struggling, and that the uprising had exposed the high price extracted by the occupation and the absence of a political solution.

By this time, there were more Israeli soldiers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip than at the time of their capture in 1967. Zeev Schiff, foremost Israeli commentator on military affairs, told *Newsweek* magazine (February 8th edition), that Israeli soldiers are «confused and frustrated... doing demoralizing police work, confronting

women and children.» He characterized the Israeli army's performance during the uprising as a failure: «Despite the great military might we've built up over the past 40 years... the IDF has been a powerless giant in the face of this uprising... events of the last few weeks have written the darkest chapter in the history of our military forces... Worst of all, by stooping to indiscriminate beating of hundreds of people, it widened the cycle of Arab-Israeli hostility and violated moral borders that should never have been crossed.»

In the same interview, Schiff castigated the Israeli intelligence service's failure to predict the uprising as «even worse than their failure to foresee the 1973 Yom Kippur war. At



Burhan Karkutli