

# The Uprising Makes Waves Internationally

The Palestinians under occupation have turned the tables on US imperialism's plans to monopolize the search for a political settlement of the Middle East crisis. Under the impact of their prolonged, united uprising and the resulting exposure of Israeli brutality, it is not easy for the US to rally support for Schultz's plan.

US Secretary of State Schultz's plan is the first programmatic initiative on the Arab-Israeli conflict to emerge since September 1982, when President Reagan forwarded his plan for harvesting the political fruits of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. After the Reagan plan failed in its aim of expanding Camp David, the US administration refrained from sticking its neck out, finding ample excuse with the diversions of the Gulf war, the decline in official Arab politics and the PLO's division. US envoys often stressed that they were merely seeking means for solutions in coordination with the local parties to the conflict - excluding the PLO, of course.

Now, the Palestinian uprising has forced the US out of the bushes. At the onset, the US administration counted on the Israeli authorities to suppress the Palestinian masses quickly and efficiently. However, with Israeli brutality glaring on television screens around the world, the US did not dare to use its veto to protect 'Israel' as usual. The US abstained on December 22nd, when the Security Council strongly deplored Israeli actions against demonstrators, especially the shooting of civilians. The Reagan Administration found it necessary to rebuke 'Israel' for using live ammunition against the unarmed Palestinian population. On January 15th, the Security Council passed a new resolution condemning the deportations ordered by the Israeli authorities. The US voted for this resolution - its first vote against 'Israel' since the 1981 annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights, and one of few votes against 'Israel' ever. In this situation, the US found it most convenient to remain on the sidelines diplomatically. Rather

than taking the initiative, it backed Egyptian President Mubarak's plan for a «ceasefire» in occupied Palestine, letting this serve as a trial balloon.

The Palestinian uprising did not, however, bend to the Zionists' neo-fascist methods. Escalating their uprising, the Palestinians hardly listened to Mubarak's insidious irrelevancies. With 'Israel' coming under increasing international pressure, and Arab reaction sunk in deep embarrassment, the US was forced to make its own move and the Schultz plan emerged.

## INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND THE EUROPEAN POSITION

The courage and stamina exhibited by the Palestinians in their uprising has elicited broad international solidarity. In addition to socialist countries, national liberation movements and progressive forces in capitalist countries,

that have long supported the PLO, new sectors joined this solidarity as well. Perhaps most interesting is the number of long-standing friends of 'Israel' who were shocked to the point of issuing strong public condemnations of Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights. This phenomenon occurred in both America and Europe, but had more prominent effects in Europe.

The Socialist International, an old friend of the Zionist state and which includes the Israeli Labor Party in its membership, sent a delegation to occupied Palestine in late February, simultaneously announcing that it plans to recognize the PLO. Members of the delegation returned to their home countries, expressing outright horror at what they had seen of Israeli brutality. Neil Kinnock of the British Labor Party personally brought up with Prime Minister Shamir the Israeli use of dum-dum bullets which expand on contact and are internationally forbidden by the Geneva Convention, presenting Shamir with specimens acquired in the occupied territories.

On March 8th, the European Parliament, meeting in Strasbourg, rejected an EEC financial aid package for 'Israel' to protest Israeli treatment of the Palestinians under occupation, the first time the parliament has turned

February demonstration at the Israeli embassy in Tokyo, protesting the destruction of the *Ship of Return* and the assassination of three Palestinian leaders in Cyprus.

