

Shamir's position appeared early on as a main obstacle to the US plan. During the Israeli prime minister's mid-March visit to Washington D.C., a senior State Department official quoted Schultz as telling Shamir: «No one should consider any differences that we may have as deeply divisive.» This official said that the US was not disturbed by Shamir's rejection of Schultz's land-for-peace formula... «That's not the Israeli position,» the official said, «It's the position of one of the parties» (Associated Press, March 16th).

Though the Reagan Administration is intent on regaining the initiative in the Middle East, it is highly tolerant of Israeli obstructionism. This reveals the Schultz plan to be, at least in part, a maneuver to buy time whereby 'Israel' has a second chance to beat down the uprising. Concurrent to these political maneuvers, 'Israel' has added strangulation to its violent methods, imposing permanent night curfew on camps, cutting telephone lines between the occupied territories and the outside world, banning travel between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and imposing a fuel blockade.

Prospects for the Schultz plan appear dim in view of the fact that only the Egyptian regime has supported it unconditionally, while the PLO rejected it outright. The Arab response has been generally cool. On March 13th, Syria's foreign minister, Farouk Al Sharaa, declared, «We have studied the American proposal and we think the plan, as presented to us, is not acceptable. We also believe that it is not acceptable to any other Arab side.» So far, official responses have not been delivered to Schultz. While the Jordanian regime has joined in criticizing points of the US plan, there are indications that hesitancy about publicly supporting it is a tactical stance, due to the impact of the uprising. The rhetoric being broadcast from Amman about PLO participation in an international conference, etc., is most likely also a tactic, rather than a new Jordanian position. This analysis is confirmed by the contents of a March 16th speech by Jordan's ambassador to the US, delivered to a Jewish synagogue group in Washington D.C. March 16th. The ambassador went on record as saying that Jordan is against a Palestinian state, and accepts direct negotiations with 'Israel' even in the absence of an international conference and PLO par-

ticipation, as has been proposed by the US (quoted in the Israeli newspaper, *Yediot Aharonot*).

In conclusion, it is important to note that Shamir's rejection of the Schultz plan is a veto against peace in any form except total Arab surrender and liquidation of the Palestinian cause. The Arab nationalist and Palestinian rejection of the plan is, on the other hand,

based on the plan's injustice, while positing the alternative - a fully empowered international conference with the PLO participating on an equal footing with other parties. At this writing, Schultz is scheduled to return to the Middle East in early April, but the uprising continues, appearing as the most weighty factor in rendering the latest US plan stillborn. ●

UN Security Council Resolution 605

Document

On 22 December 1987 the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 605 (1987), which reads as follows:

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The Security Council,

Having considered the letter dated 11 December 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Democratic Yemen to the United Nations, in his capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of December,

Bearing in mind the inalienable rights of all peoples recognized by the Charter of the United Nations and proclaimed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling its relevant resolutions on the situation in the Palestinian and other Arab territories, occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, and including its resolutions 446 (1979), 465 (1980), 497 (1981) and 592 (1986),

Recalling also the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,

Gravely concerned and alarmed by the deteriorating situation in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem,

Taking into account the need to consider measures for the impartial protection of the Palestinian civilian population under Israeli occupation,

Considering that the current policies and practices of Israel, the occupying Power, in the occupied territories are bound to have grave consequences for the endeavors to achieve comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East,

1. Strongly deplores those policies and practices of Israel, the occupying Power, which violate the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, and in particular the opening of fire by the Israeli army resulting in the killing and wounding of defenceless Palestinian civilians;

2. Reaffirms that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem;

3. Calls once again upon Israel, the occupying Power, to abide immediately and scrupulously by the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and to desist forthwith from its policies and practices that are in violation of the provisions of the Convention;

4. Calls furthermore for the exercise of maximum restraint to contribute towards the establishment of peace;

5. Stresses the urgent need to reach a just, durable and peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to examine the present situation in the occupied territories by all means available to him, and to submit a report no later than 20 January 1988 containing his recommendations on ways and means for ensuring the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation;

7. Decides to keep the situation in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, under review. ●