

the Palestinian uprising on world opinion. The Soviet comrades assess that the US and Israeli plans are in crisis, and that this crisis has been aggravated by the uprising.

PALESTINIAN—SYRIAN RECONCILIATION

It is expected that the Soviet foreign minister will soon tour a number of Arab countries to discuss the political developments in the Middle East conflict.

The PLO delegation sensed the Soviet concern about creating the proper atmosphere for improving Palestinian-Syrian relations. The Soviet leadership highly appraised the official Syrian position after Schultz's last visit to Damascus. Concerning the Jordanian position, the Soviet leadership confirmed the necessity of the PLO being independently represented, not through Jordan. The Palestinian delegation agreed with the Soviet

Novosti Press Release

Soviet View of the Settlement in Brief

1. Withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the territories occupied in 1967: the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights.
2. The Palestinian people have the right to self-determination in the same measure as it is insured for the people of Israel. How the Palestinians will exercise this right is a matter which concerns them alone.
3. The most effective mechanism for a settlement of the Middle East conflict is an international conference under UN auspices, legally based on the recognition by all parties of Security Council
4. The UN Secretary General directs invitations to all the participating parties.

leadership that in the event of a unified Arab delegation to the international conference, the PLO should be independently invited. The PLO delega-

tion emphasized that more important than a unified Arab delegation is a unified Arab position on the Palestinian question. ●

«Israel» 40-Year State of Siege

As the Zionist state celebrates its 40th anniversary, the Palestinian uprising is challenging the viability of the fundamental premises on which this racist, settler colony is based. Not only has Israeli brutality failed to quell the popular revolt; it has laid bare before the world the moral and political bankruptcy inherent in the Zionist project.

On May 15th, the state of 'Israel' was declared. Although the Zionists speak of their «Declaration of Independence,» the adopted text read as follows: «...we hereby proclaim the establishment of the Jewish state in Palestine...»

There was no mention of an independent state. In fact, a Communist party amendment to declare «the independent Jewish state» was rejected while, as the first Israeli prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, wrote: «We decided to evade (and I choose this word intentionally) the matter (of borders).»

Four days later, a state of emergency was declared under the Defense Regulations originally imposed by the British Mandate authorities in 1945. This 'legalized' the destruction of 385 Palestinian Arab villages and the expulsion of the majority of the Palesti-

nian people from their homes, while enabling the imposition of a military government on those who remained in the Zionist state. This military government was not to be abolished until 1966, whereafter it was reinstated in the West Bank and Gaza Strip after the 1967 occupation. The current Palestinian uprising only serves to accentuate the fact that a state of emergency has been a constant fact of life in the 40 years of the Zionist state's existence.

The Israeli crisis, which some trace back to the new occupation of 1967, really dates back to the state's bloody origin, as was highlighted by the participation of Palestinian Arabs of the 1948 occupied territories in the current uprising. 'Israel' is in a permanent self-declared state of siege - at war not only with neighboring Arab countries, but

first and foremost with the Palestinian people, both those who are internally colonized and those in exile. The state of siege is deemed necessary not only to ward off the political and military challenge posed by Palestinian resistance; it is a prerequisite for the state's physical and economic existence.

«The vast properties of the Palestinian Arab people inside the state of Israel remain vested in the Custodian of Absentee Property so long as the state of emergency declared by the Provisional Council of State in 1948 has not been declared to have ceased to exist» (Uri Davis, *Israel: An Apartheid State*, Zed Books, 1987, p. 64). Lift the state of siege and Palestine would quite literally revert to the Palestinians.

HEADING BACK TO 1948

The state of siege was apparent as the Israelis celebrated their 40th anniversary in mid-April (in accordance with the ancient Jewish calendar). Despite Prime Minister Shamir's repeated assurances that the occupied territories were «nearly quiet,» four days of highly volatile demonstrations preceded the Israeli festivities, as Palestinians protested the assassination of PLO