

tence» with the 120,000 Palestinians who remained on their land after the establishment of Israel. Although this community was small in number and under military rule, Dr. Sharon was concerned with the purity of the new state. The mere idea of having Palestinians within its borders, regardless of their number, contradicts with the Zionist principle of a pure Jewish state.

Weitz recorded in his diaries a meeting which took place in 1955, seven years after the establishment of the Israeli state between himself, Sharett and Levi Eshkol, who later became Israel's prime minister (Yosef Weitz, *My Diary and Letters to the Children*). In that meeting a plan was discussed to «transfer» the Palestinians to Libya which was a monarchy at the time and had good relations with the Israeli leaders. Sharett reported that John Foster Dulles, the US secretary of state, promised financial support for the plan.

Although the plan to expel Palestinians to Libya could not be implemented, in 1967, Israel, after occupying the rest of Palestine, managed to expel an additional 250,000 Palestinians from the newly occupied territories. However, the majority (600,000) clung to their land despite Israeli state terrorism aimed at driving them out. Although Israel's victory in the 1967 war was euphoric, the sobering reality of Israel's inability to expel the majority of the Palestinians from the newly occupied territories began to set in. It meant that the Jewish state could not annex these territories, because doing so would not only dilute the Jewish character of Israel, it would strip the Zionist movement of a majority in a very short period of time. This, in turn, would force the Israelis to deny the Palestinians voting privileges so that they would not be voted out of the government.

This dilemma, which the Israelis refer to as the «demographic bomb» or the «demographic devil,» has beset Israel with a fundamental problem: there exists now about 1.7 million Palestinians in the territories occupied since 1967, while only 200,000 Jewish settlers (mostly religious zealots) have opted to live there, despite the financial enticements from the government designed to lure as many settlers as possible. The new Likud-led government will attempt to solve this problem by settling the new immigrants in these territories, in effect using them as cannon fodder, despite Sharon's promises

that no new immigrants will be settled in the 1967 occupied territories. As well, the new immigrants have to wait one year before they can get an Israeli passport and are not allowed to leave the country for five years after their arrival, effectively trapping them in Israel.

Selective expulsion

Since 1967, over 1,200 Palestinians have been expelled from the territories occupied in that year. These selective expulsions of leading Palestinian personalities are aimed at destroying the infrastructure of Palestinian society and crushing the Palestinian nationalist movement. The first to be expelled was Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, president of the Islamic Council. He was followed throughout the years by Rawhi Al Khatib, mayor of Jerusalem, the

mayors of Ramallah, El Bireh, Hebron and Halhoul, Greek Orthodox Archbishop Monseigneur Hilarion Capucci, union leader Dr. Alfred Tubasi, the editor of a prominent Palestinian newspaper, Akram Haniyeh, student leader Marwan Barghouti and educator Dr. Walid Mustafa, to name just a few.

These expulsions, clearly in violation of the Fourth Geneva Conventions, have received special attention during the intifada. In January 1988, the UN Security Council held a special meeting to discuss this matter, and issued resolution number 607 against these illegal expulsions. Needless to say, this did not deter Israel from continuing this practice.

Israeli apologists still maintain that those Israelis who call for the expulsion of Palestinian Arabs are very

