

simply by declaring it «state» land. This is supplemented by an array of aggressive and oppressive measures, including the demolition of Palestinian homes, increased taxation, economic restrictions on the Palestinian inhabitants, etc. All in all, they aim to force the Palestinian Arabs to emigrate. Through this policy the Zionists had established about 144 settlements in the 1967 occupied territories by the end of 1983; 107 of these are in the West Bank.

According to the Israeli newspaper, *Haaretz*, September 20, 1983, «Approximately 55-60% of all West Bank land is now classified as 'state land', so that the authorities can claim it at any time...i.e., most of the land of the West Bank is under the control of the authorities.»

Obviously, plans such as 'autonomy' and 'civil' administration are only other means to achieve the same end. Such plans are part of the Israeli political strategy vis-a-vis the 1967 occupied territories, and clear expressions of the Israeli desire to annex the remaining land of Palestine and liquidate the Palestinian national identity in the face of international community. This way the dream of the world Zionist movement can be fulfilled - the achievement of «Greater Israel» from the Nile to the Euphrates.

## Resistance compounds the Zionist dilemma

In spite of this clear strategy and Israeli military supremacy, the battle continues between the occupation authorities and the Palestinian masses. While our masses' heroic resistance is unable to demolish the Zionist project, it is sufficient to create great obstacles for the enemy, and these obstacles will accumulate in the future. The ongoing resistance of our people under occupation is the real reason behind the resignation of Menachem Milson, who was in charge of implementing 'civil' administration in the West Bank, and then of his successor, Eli Shlomo. At the same time, the Palestinian national position buried these civil administrators' other pet project: the village leagues, which were nurtured by the Israeli authorities to be an alternative to the PLO.

Various Israeli newspapers have noted the relationship between the failure of 'civil' administration and the so-called Operation Peace for the Galilee, i.e., the invasion of Lebanon, which was intended to finish off the PLO as a means of imposing 'civil' administration. While this was for the purpose of

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annexing the West Bank especially, the invasion also aimed at occupying Lebanese land, and at a minimum annexing the water resources of the South, i.e., the Litani River. Here we can see the direct relation between the Zionist state's expansionist wars and the confiscation of the land, and also the relation between Israeli-style «peace» and their central theme of land acquisition. The real word for this «peace» is expansion. Moreover, if one reviews the Israeli «peace» proposals since 1948, whether forwarded by Labor or Likud, one finds no substantial differences. The apparent differences are only related to the rationale for their policies. Both parties have followed a policy based on military power and aggression, and both have exerted maximum efforts to annex the 1967 occupied territories.

## Cracks in the myth

It is clear that our enemy has invested tremendous efforts through material, political and military means, in order to fulfill the Zionist myth. However, their failure to achieve the «land without a people» exposes this myth. All the fascist methods applied have failed to empty the land of its original inhabitants. Instead the Zionists' difficulties have accumulated to the point that even some of the most dogmatic have begun to sense that the «desert» is not blooming under their feet, and that the Zionist dream is an illusion. The Zionist leadership faces a dilemma since many of the «people» for whom they usurped the land are now escaping. Immigration policy is in an increasing contradiction. Settlements built on stolen land remain as ghost towns, as was stated in the Israeli newspaper, *Yediot Aharanot*. A report written by an Israeli, Ouzi Narkis, attributes the crisis facing Jewish immigration to the following factors:

- the low number of immigrants from western states;
- increasing emigration, including recent immigrants who soon leave «the promised land»;
- the question of security and the fear of war;
- the lessening of «nationalist» feelings;
- living conditions in 'Israel' and the difficulty of finding work.

## No solution with Zionism

In celebrating Land Day, it does not behove us to underestimate the sources of our enemy's strength, nor to exaggerate its weaknesses. Rather we must base our views and struggle on objective facts about the existence of Zionism. The basic objective fact is the continuation and deepening of the major contradiction between the Zionist project and the Arab identity, not only of Palestine but of all Arab land. Day after day, it is confirmed that the Arab-Zionist conflict is a struggle for existence and not for specific geographical boundaries. For this reason, the contradiction will not be resolved until one or the other party is eliminated. There will be no solution to the conflict until its cause, the Zionist project, disappears and the Arab land is restored.