

Israelis more leeway in its region than would otherwise be permitted. And U.S. aid shields the Israeli population from suffering the economic consequences.<sup>288</sup>

Inescapably, work to stop U.S. aid to dictatorships in Central America will have little effect if Israeli arms sales are not cut off. The American people have only one lever to use against Israel: cutting off U.S. aid. Consider that the Israelis actually oppose full-scale resumption of U.S. shipments of arms to Central America since this directly competes with Israeli sales. If its goal is to actually deny weapons to Rios Montt and his counterparts in Honduras and El Salvador and not merely to

wipe the blood from the hands of the U.S., Israel will have to become a prime target of the Central American solidarity movement.

The Israeli role, to use a Vietnam-era expression, is escalating dangerously fast. Israel plays a key role in the regionalization of the Central American conflict. The Israeli arms industry is capable of supplying all the needs of the Central American regimes and would be glad to do so. With no sign of significant Israeli opposition,<sup>289</sup> Israel will only be stopped when a broad opposition movement is built in the United States and U.S. aid to Israel is cut off.

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## New US-Israeli Aggressive Steps Call for Anti-Imperialist Unity

Comrade Bassam Abu Sharif, member of the Joint Leadership of the PFLP and DFLP, announced today that «confirmed information has been received that the US administration has agreed to provide 'Israel' with highly sophisticated technical devices to confront Soviet arms in the Middle East. The decision was taken mid-September, and the shipment of these devices will be concluded before the end of this year. This brings the situation in the Middle East to an explosive and dangerous

level.» Comrade Abu Sharif added that the US government and the Israelis are planning for further aggression against the PLO, Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces.

He also emphasized that the Algiers-Aden agreement between Fatah's Central Committee and the Democratic Alliance is a suitable base for the reconstruction of the PLO, and that the PFLP and the rest of the organizations, that have signed the agreement, are fully committed to it. In the

coming few days, efforts to remove obstacles confronting this reconstruction of the alliance will increase. These efforts will be geared to bringing the overall national dialogue to fruitful ends in preparation for convening the National Council. Comrade Abu Sharif ended by accusing the National Alliance of being irresponsible, if they maintain their present attitude towards the unity of the PLO and the overall national dialogue.