

fouleh in the Galilee where Arabs were attacked after the dead bodies of two settlers were discovered the preceding week; he had participated in the violent Zionist mob.

The Zionist authorities are escalating repression, reviving the draconian measures provided for in the 1945 emergency regulations, first imposed in Palestine by the British and later adopted by the Israeli state. Already two of those liberated in the most recent prisoner exchange have been rearrested, one of them under administrative detention in accordance with the 1945 regulations. Al Najah University has been closed for two months for «inflammatory» posters. Mass deportations are being threatened as is the transfer to desolate areas of entire refugee camps if stones are thrown at Zionist vehicles. Though they differ in their rhetoric, the

two wings of the Zionist government converge on the essence of this campaign. Whether they advocate annexing the 1967 occupied territories, or subject-

ing them to Jordan's monarchy, Zionists concur on the necessity of breaking the Palestinians' resistance. This is what our revolutionaries are fighting.

Support Striking Prisoners

Communique, July 29th

A spokesman for the PFLP's Politbureau made the following statement concerning the hunger strike declared by Palestinian prisoners in Moscobiya prison in occupied Jerusalem:

It is the second week of the strike, and the Zionist prison authorities continue to reject the demands of the strikers. These demands are for improvement of the conditions of imprisonment, stopping the prison authorities' inhuman treatment of prisoners, and quick action

to provide medicine for dangerously ill prisoners.

We have information that the condition of the strikers is steadily deteriorating. We call on all committees and humanitarian organizations, including the Red Cross, Amnesty International and the International Organization for Human Rights, to intervene quickly to press the Zionist occupation authorities to provide our prisoners with good conditions according to the terms of the Geneva Convention for prisoners of war.

First General Congress

The Progressive Front for Trade Union Action

The Progressive Front for Trade Union Action in the occupied territories held its first general congress in the early part of May 1985. The congress met under the slogan «towards a united trade union movement on a militant democratic basis.» The congress was attended by leading members of the Palestinian trade unions, representatives of mass organizations and a number of patriotic personalities.



The PFTUA was officially founded in 1982, but it had existed as a tendency within the occupied territories' trade union movement for many years. The formal announcement of the PFTUA came in response to the exacerbation of poor economic conditions for the Palestinian working class, the need for more militant forms of trade union action and to rally the working class in the occupied territories to play a leading role in the national liberation struggle. As early as 1979, workers representing this trend gained strength in the Shoemakers Union in Hebron, and won seats in the union's administrative council. The union succeeded in broadening its base among Palestinian workers and became a member of the General Federation of Palestinian Trade Unions in the West Bank. The

PFTUA has won seats in the administrative committees of the St. George Hotel Workers Union, the East Jerusalem Electricity Co. Workers Union, the Hospice Hospital Workers Union and others, and plays a leading role in these unions.

Fifteen Palestinian unions were represented in the PFTUA at the general congress. These unions have opened their doors to any Palestinian worker regardless of political or ideological affiliation. The PFTUA has organized to unify the whole Palestinian working class within the general trade unions and has taken many initiatives to avoid splits within the General Federation of Palestinian Trade Unions in the West Bank.

The general congress was called to solidify the internal organization of the PFTUA so that it can play a leading role in the general trade union struggle and unify the trade union movement in the occupied territories. To this end, the general congress defined immediate tasks for the Front to develop in 1985.

Congress report

On the political level, the report of the congress condemned the February 1985 accord between Arafat and King Hussein. The report stated: «We support the formation of the Palestine National Salvation Front. We consider it to be a pioneering and fundamental step along the road of defeating ►