

based on UN resolutions on Palestine, specifically naming UN Resolution 242. Passed after the 1967 War, UN Resolution 242 implies the recognition of Israel as a legitimate state.

The PLO thus openly recognized Israel's "legitimacy" and called for a "mini-state" made up only of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Such a mini-state can mean no more than a *bantustan a la Transkei or Venda*. It would be stripped of any real political, economic and military independence and surrounded by armies from Israel and /or pro-West Arab states like Jordan and Egypt. The Soviet Union has indicated support for the recognition of Israel and the "mini-state" solution.

Boasted a high-ranking PLO official: "We are now concerned with gaining world support, and we cannot ignore international facts that have become realities." This talk of realism is PLO doublespeak for counter-revolution and defeatism.

## **The Battle of Karameh**

During March 1968, the Battle of Karameh erupted when a small band of *fedayeen* successfully defended the guerrilla base of PLO at Karameh, Jordan against a vastly superior Israeli force. Karameh marked a phoenix-like rebirth of the Palestinian cause. In the weeks following March 21 1968 hundreds of thousands of people took down their posters of Nasser and replaced them with posters of the *fedayeen*, wrapped in *kaffiyehs*, guns in hand.

By 1974, however, official PLO policy (represented by Arafat's speech to the UN) had gone from an erroneous though in many respects still revolutionary-line, to a consolidated orientation of subordinating the armed struggle to deals and diplomatic manoeuvring with one or another imperialist. The role of armed action in PLO strategy was reduced to that of an "irritant" designed to constantly remind the Zionists that

"the Palestinian question will not go away" and that "a negotiated solution is unavoidable."

The impotence of this overall PLO strategy was never more starkly evident than in the decision to surrender and leave the city of Beirut under the "protection" of a US multinational task force rather than fighting the Battle of Beirut through (July 1982).

## **Welcome to The Shabab**

In September 1988, a thirteen year old Palestinian girl at a summer camp in Libya told a reporter: "We must fight for all of Palestine." Her fifteen year old companion nodded in agreement: "Up to now, everything Chairman Arafat has done has been right. But the day he recognizes Israel is the day I will oppose him. I will win my state by fighting, not be recognition." Indeed, illusory schemes of a relatively cheap and painless road to liberation through brokered deals with "enlightened" or pragmatic great powers lead, not to victory, but to paralysis and disaster.

Welcome to this fierce new generation! With incredible courage and sacrifice, the *shabab* have placed themselves in the front ranks of the struggle against settler-colonialism and imperialism. Much will be demanded of them as we free Palestine ... and Azania!!! ■

## **REPORT OF A BANKRUPT**

**If you blow out the candles in my eyes,**

**If you freeze all the kisses on my lips,**

**If you fill my native air with lispng curses,**

**Or silence my anguish,**

**Forge my coin,**

**Uproot the smile from my children's faces.**

**If you raise a thousand walls,**

**And nail my eyes to humiliation,**

**Enemy of man,**

**I shall not compromise**

**And to the end**

**I shall fight.**

**Enemy of man**

**The signals are raised at the forts,**

**The air**

**Is thronged with beckonings,**

**I see the sails at the horizon**

**Striving,**

**Defying,**

**The sails of Ulysses are veering home**

**From the seas of the lost**

**The sun is rising,**

**Man is advancing,**

**And for his sake,**

**I swear**

**I shall not compromise**

**And to the end**

**I shall fight**

**I shall fight.**

**- Samir Al-Qassem**