

## Palestinian speaks on Middle East

Adnan Achman, a member of the General Union of Palestinian Students, told the *Observer* that his organization is attempting to reveal to the American people the U.S. role in Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

"U.S. money is being spent in a state that is killing civilians and leaving people homeless—what they call a 'mopping up' of the Palestinians. They are really trying to demolish the Palestinian entity and kill anything called Palestinian."

"This invasion comes as projected by the PLO [Palestinian Liberation Organization], which is the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The invasion was expected because it fits into the so-called peace settlement that the United States is imposing on the area. The PLO has warned that such an invasion would come this summer."

Achman described two peace proposals. The first—the proposal of the U.S. and the "reactionary Arab regimes" [such as Jordan's and Saudi Arabia's] has three parts:

1) For Israel to occupy Southern Lebanon to the Itelja River, to ensure Israel's northern border;

2) To destroy the PLO and the Lebanese Patriotic Movement so they will have no influence in the area;

3) To complete the Camp David agreements as altered by the proposal of the late King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. These proposals are basically the same as the Camp David accords, according to Achman, but are more acceptable to the Arab governments because they were proposed by Fahd. The Arab governments opposed the Camp David process so would find it difficult to accept these accords.

Fahd's plan includes recognition of the State of Israel and formation of a Palestinian state. The differences of opinion are around what type of state this would be. The Palestinians want a sovereign nation while Israel desires a Palestinian state with no military, with a foreign policy controlled by Israel.

The second option is the Israel plan—called the Sharon plan after the Israeli defense minister who proposed it:

1) To destroy the military and political structure of the PLO and the Lebanese Patriotic Movement;

2) To create a government in Lebanon that would be friendly to Israel;

3) To get Syrian troops out of Lebanon;

4) To elect some type of governmental council in the West Bank that would be called representative of the Palestinian people but would cooperate with Israel.

"Palestinians see the Sharon plan being implemented in the current invasion," Achman said. Both plans have two points in common—to

weaken or destroy the PLO and to liquidate the Palestinian issue.

Yet the invasion is only one issue, he explained. "Since 1948 and before Palestinian people—and there are four million—have been killed, kicked out, living in refugee camps . . . It is their legitimate right under international law to ask for their own homeland and to live in peace."

"They keep kicking the Palestinians out of the places they live; they keep killing the people and the civilians—even killing the children so in the future they cannot grow up and be fighters. All of the Palestinians who live in the camps have nothing to lose and they want their own homes back. It's their legitimate right to resist such an occupation by such a fascist government in their own homeland."

"So what is happening is that the Israelis went into Lebanon—are surrounding Beirut—are putting a very strong and firm siege on West Beirut. Actually no water and food and no medical aid are being allowed through to help the wounded people in Beirut."

"This fascist and this aggressive invasion comes to show the nature of the Israeli government—the Zionist movement—point of view. This shows their expansionist policy—their racist policy. Nobody in the world can justify killing women and children and civilians, just bombing indiscriminately the civilian areas, just under the excuse that some fighters are there among the civilians."

"If the Israelis manage to destroy the PLO and the Lebanese Liberation Movement, there will be another PLO. And if that one is demolished there will be another PLO, and another PLO, and we will get our legitimate rights and self-determination."

The Jewish people and the Palestinians lived in peace together in Palestine prior to the establishment of the state of Israel, Achman said. "We were Palestinians and they were Palestinians; they only difference was that some of the people in Palestine were Muslims, some were Christians and some were Jews. They were all living in peace and they were all living happily."

"The Zionist movement—which is what we are against—is a racist movement, it is a discriminatory, fascist movement which was organized in the 1890s and this movement took advantage of the world sympathy for the Jews who had been killed in World War II by the Nazis. We sympathize very much with the Jews who were killed, we were 100% against Hitler and the Nazis but we don't think we have to pay for that massacre. The Zionists have appealed to the Jews to come to Palestine and create a nation for

themselves and this was wrong because you are not creating a new nation in a place empty of people—you are creating a new nation in such a small country where three million people were living. In 1948 they took three quarters of Palestine and in 1967 they took the rest of Palestine, the Sinai and Golan Heights. They have been expanding—they have annexed the Golan Heights, they will annex part of Lebanon, and there is no guarantee this expansion will not continue."

"And the United States is helping them. Without U.S. aid they would not last a week. They have no economy there, they have only the aid that comes from Western Europe and the United States. And the U.S. will bank 100% on Israel to keep the Arab countries divided so the U.S. can take what it wants from them."

**A march and rally will be held July 15 to protest the Israeli invasion. The march begins at the South Park Blocks, 11:30 am; rally at Shrunken Park, 12:30. Speakers include: Ron Herndon, BUF; Karen Talbot, World Peace Council; Palestinians and Lebanese.**

The American plan is to destroy the PLO so it will not be an influence in the Middle East, Achman said. "The PLO and the Lebanese National Movement, are leaders of the Arab national movement because they are the only armed revolutionaries, along with the Oman revolution. The others are secret, underground, struggling against the reactionary Arab regimes. Being a vanguard—the strongest revolution in the Middle East—it has been an obstacle in the way of the so-called peace process that the United States, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and all the other so-called moderate Arab states are trying to push."

With the PLO strong the Arab governments cannot accept the Fahd plan. "Over three fourths of the people in Jordan are Palestinian, and that government would be gone overnight if it were to accept such a proposal."

When the invasion began, the Arab states did not object because it was to accomplish their objectives, Achman said. But then there were a lot of casualties and pressure from international public opinion. The longer the resistance holds on—the longer it takes for Israel to accomplish its mission—the less stable the Arab governments will be. "The people will not just sit there and look at their relatives and friends in Lebanon being killed. The longer it takes the more questions there will be about why these regimes are remaining silent while the people are being massacred."

**Next week: The PLO option**

## Retirement home plans closure

by C. Eddie Edmondson

Shortly after vice-president George Bush was in Portland happily chirping the Reagan Administration's news that the crippling recession was over, the Mann Home, an inner Northeast Portland retirement home, announced it was going to close its doors by September so as to offset losses of over \$300,000 annually.

"It's a lovely old building," said Mrs. Ada Fischer, one of 43 residents of the three story brick structure located at 1025 N.E. 33rd. She has been there since 1973, she said. "You can't find prettier grounds than these around these old buildings."

The Mann Home soon became a distinctive part of the elderly's September years. Its antique furniture and large sunrooms on the first and second floor offered its residents a taste of elegance and leisure that would have been difficult to afford or maintain in a family home.

Jim Edwards, executive director of the Willamette View Manor, Inc., said that hard times began to befall the Mann Home and in January of 1980 the Mann Home executive Board agreed to merge with Willamette.

"They were running out of funds," said Edwards, who assumed responsibility for operation of Mann. Mann's assets were turned over to Willamette and are used to maintain operations. But it was not enough.

Edwards said some Mann residents had been with the home for over 20 years. "They paid a lump sum of \$9,000 and were not required to pay anymore," he said. That certainly cut anticipated revenue.

Over 20 years ago, as an incentive to obtain residents, Mann, like many retirement homes, offered potential residents the option of paying a set fee of several thousand dollars—often equal to the cost of a comfortable home in the 1950s and early '60s—in return for complete room, board and hospital care. (There is an infirmary adjacent to the building with a nurse on duty all the time.)

What was not anticipated was that the actuarial tables then in use at the time would not anticipate the advances in science or the enormous increases in medical and other maintenance expenses.

"We didn't run out of money," said Edwards, explaining the decision to close down the Home, "we are trying to cut our losses (of \$300,000 per year)."

When Mann merged with Willamette View Manor, the parties agreed to sell the Mann Home property due to the higher operating expenses for the old building. A new structure was to be built in Southeast Portland on property already owned by Willamette, and the Mann residents would be transferred there.

But interest rates refused to fall low enough to make following through on that plan economically feasible, Edwards said. Thus the de-

cision to close.

Asked if interest rates fell to 10 per cent (from their current 16 and 18 per cent) Edwards responded heartily: "If interest rates came down to 10, we'd go tomorrow," he said.

Mrs. Fischer said that there was some resentment on the part of the residents to Mann's closing. "I'm a senior citizen and I don't want to move. You can't find prettier grounds than these around these old buildings."

The building is maintained very well, she said, with monthly cleaning by a staff. In addition, residents' heavy laundry is cleaned by the staff.

Not everything at Mann was as bright as it could be, she added. While most of the staff is excellent, Mrs. Fischer admitted that it's been difficult with several cooks over the year.

"Sometimes they think they are cooks when they are not," she said, noting that she was a cook herself and did not want to say anything negative about cooks. And then too, she noted, the teenagers who serve the food in the formal dining room in the evening for the 30-odd residents who are not confined to their beds, sometimes have more gravy than in the outside of the gravy bowl than in it. But that depends on how carefully they were taught at home, she added.

Edwards said several options have been made available on transferring the Mann residents, primarily to (Please turn to page 8 column 1)

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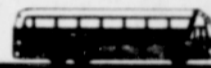
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