Begin government announces

Israel won't budge from occupied territory

By HILLEL BAILIN

JUNE 19—This week, the government of Israel came out firmly behind Prime Minister Begin and announced that it is not willing to give up one inch of the Arab territory that Israel has occupied since 1967.

At a meeting in Jerusalem yesterday, the Israeli Cabinet decided that the military occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip would continue for five years and that after five years the occupation would be reviewed but not changed. This decision shows that the Israeli government, despite Sadat's capitulation and visit to Jerusalem last November, is determined to hold on to the stolen territory and is not in the least interested in making any concessions towards a Mideast settlement.

Israel took over the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Sinai Peninsula and the Golan Heights in the 1967 war of aggression against the Arab people. For 11 years now, the Palestinians living on the West Bank have suffered a brutal military occupation. In countless demonstrations, rebellions, and other acts of resistance, the Palestinians on the West Bank have protested the horrible conditions.

While all Israel is in fact occupied Palestine, the whole world recognizes that Israel has no right whatsoever to what is known as the "occupied territories," including the West Bank. However, the government of Israel, headed by Menachem Begin, has shown once again that it is an outlaw regime with nothing but contempt for world public opinion.

U.S. imperialism has always been the real force behind Israel. The U.S. provided the military hardware for Israel's many aggressions, including the 1967 war, and continues to be Israel's arms supplier and chief supporter. Without continuous and enormous economic and military aid from the U.S., Israel itself, as well as its West Bank occupation, could not last a week. Israel, in turn, serves as U.S. imperialism's garrison state in the Mideast.

Even the U.S. government has been forced to admit, at times, that Israel should quit the occupied territories and the Carter administration may not be happy with Israel's public stand. According to accounts in the establishment press here, the Carter administration wanted Israel to **say in words** that it planned to withdraw. Such a verbal pledge would help spread the lie that Israel and the U.S. are indeed willing to make concessions.

Any difference, however, between the United States and Israel on this question is merely a difference of approach. The goals of expansion and suppression of the liberation movements of the Palestinians and other Arab peoples are goals shared by the U.S. and its servant, Israel.

LEBANESE FASCISTS REPLACE ISRAELI TROOPS

In a related development last week, Israel removed most of its troops from Lebanon. But instead of leaving control of the area to the United Nations troops as promised, the Israeli regime has given control to Lebanese fascist military units known as the Phalangists. Kurt Waldheim, Secretary General of the United Nations, in a statement released on June 14, sharply criticized this move.

Who are the Phalangists? They take their name from the fascist party of Spain. During World War II, the Phalangists were supporters of Nazi Germany and fought side-by-side with Hitler's troops and some of the Phalange leaders still openly admire Hitler. During the civil war in Lebanon, the Phalange fought against the progressive Lebanese National Movement and the Palestinian revolutionaries.

However, even with enormous military aid from Israel and the earlier intervention of Syria, the Phalangists could not suppress the Palestinian people in southern Lebanon. Then last March, Israeli troops armed with U.S weapons, crashed through the Lebanese border in a massive invasion, killed thousands of Lebanese and Palestinians, and dislodged the armed defense units of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Now under international political pressure, the Israelis have withdrawn from Lebanon but have left their weapons and fortified positions in the hands of the Phalangists.

The United Nations had sent a "peacekeeping force" to Lebanon to replace the Israeli troops. The UN troops were recruited from pro-imperialist countries and are by no means friends of the Palestinian or Lebanese people. But the UN is subject to some political pressure from the socialist and other progressive countries and the UN troops did not fight the Palestinian guerrillas returning to the areas as aggressively as the Israelis would have liked. Israel therefore, chose to violate its pledge and gave control not to the UN force but to its close allies, the Phalangists, who will try to maintain complete military and political influence for Israel in southern Lebanon.

It is ironic that Israel, which pretends to defend the interests of the Jewish people, finds its most reliable Middle Eastern ally in the openly pro-Nazi Phalange.

Aimed at Arab, Ethiopian revolution

U.S. imperialism reviving CENTO?

By ANDY STAPP

JUNE 18—According to a report appearing in today's New York Times, "Iraq, Iran, and Saudi Arabia are discussing a Persian Gulf security arrangement that could create a major shift in the strategic balance of the oil-producing area."

Whether or not Iraq will really be pulled into such a scheme—a move supported by the reactionary pro-Saudi faction in the Iraqi regime—is problematical. Nonetheless, it is clear that the creation of such a military pact would amount to nothing less than the revival of the old Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) under a different cover.

A counter-revolutionary alliance rigged up by the U.S. government during the height of the Cold War in the 1950s, CENTO tied the governments of Pakistan, Iraq, Iran, and Turkey to the U.S. and Great Britain in the struggle against communism and the Arab revolution.

It was, in fact, the great and heroic uprising of July 14, 1958, that enabled the Iraqi people to pull free of CENTO by overthrowing the hated and ultra-repressive regime of Iraq's British stooge, Nuri Said.

Now, apparently the U.S. is hoping to rope Iraq back into the fold.

FEARFUL OF ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION

As for the rulers of Iran and Saudi Arabia, it is no mystery why **they** should want to form such a pact. Both are extremely fearful of the Ethiopian revolution, terrified that the revolutionary wave that wiped out the Haile Selassie monarchy will topple them too.

For that reason, the Shah of Iran and the Saudis have been aiding the Eritrean secessionists against revolutionary Ethiopia. The Shah especially has plenty of reason for nervousness, considering the mass uprisings that have rocked his pro-U.S. fascist regime all this year.

An editorial in the May issue of Saut Al-Thawara, the publication of the People's Front for the Liberation of Oman, says that the projected "Gulf security project is nothing but the twin of the CENTO pact," noting that "the U.S. is leading these notorious projects."

The attempt by the imperialists to beef up their forces in the Arab Gulf area is just one more indication that the Pentagon, Wall Street, and the Carter administration are reverting to the ultra anti-Soviet era of Eisenhower and Dulles when pacts like CENTO were set up in the first place.

Unlike the 1950s, however, the relative strength of U.S. imperialism has greatly declined, a fact underscored recently in Africa by the victory of the revolutions in Angola, Mozambique, and Ethiopia.

Carter escalates war threat over Korea

U.S. backing of Pak regime now $1 billion yearly

By DEE KNIGHT

NEW YORK, June 20—The U.S. House Armed Services Committee investigations subcommittee recently called the demilitarized zone in Korea "the most explosive and volatile spot in Asia." These imperialists should know, since they just completed (or at least ended) an "investigation" of the Koreagate scandal, and they are supposed to monitor and approve every U.S. tax dollar that goes to the fascist Pak regime.

During his election campaign, President Carter acknowledged by implication that the cause of Korea's "volatility" was the U.S. garrison of more than 40,000 troops—which he promised to withdraw. But now, more than two years later, a paltry 800 troops are scheduled to leave Korea by the end of 1978, and the Air Force presence there has been beefed up by 20%.

This broken promise parallels Carter's reversal on the whole "defense" budget, where his pledge of a $5-7 billion reduction became its opposite after he was elected.

Meanwhile, to make up for the troop reduction that isn't happening, the U.S. has escalated military aid to the tottering Pak regime to nearly $1 billion per year for the next four years. And the 680 nuclear warheads on Korean soil are poised and ready to wreak unspeakable havoc on the people of north Korea; the "war games" instigated by Washington and the Pak regime this past March included simulated nuclear attacks by U.S. bombers and missiles.

If Carter were seriously concerned about self-determination, as he claimed hypocritically in his recent Annapolis speech, not one American soldier would now defile Korean soil. If he were concerned about international law, or world opinion as reflected at the recent UN disarmament conference, not one nuclear warhead would be in Korea.

If "human rights" were anything more than a Big Lie to Carter, the fascist Pak regime would not receive a dime. Even the U.S. big business press carries frequent reports of mass jailings of Koreans who dare to criticize the government in any way. Trade unions are illegal, as are all types of free associations of the people.

AIM TAX REVOLT AT THE MILITARY

Those who want a "tax revolt"—like those who voted for California's Proposition 13—should demand an end to military spending instead of hurting themselves and all poor and working people by voting for an end to taxes which pay for education and social services. The attack on the poor will reportedly "save" $7 billion in California. But the Pentagon budget is almost 25 times that much. Throw in military and economic aid to fascist regimes like south Korea, and it's much more.

Carter and all the other ruling class politicians have been quick to accept the "tax revolt" along the reactionary lines of Proposition 13. But it will take a fight to get them to stop their aggression in Korea and the rest of Asia—not to mention Africa, the Middle East, Europe and Latin America.

As Defense Secretary Brown told the World Affairs Council in Los Angeles Feb. 20, "We are and will remain a major force in the Pacific . . . Our military presence and planned improvements to our forces are designed to insure that we have the ability to protect our interests and commitments."

The "commitments" are to the fascist governments of south Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, and the U.S. big business partner in the Far East, Japan. There are close to 150,000 U.S. troops in these countries or patrolling near them on the U.S. Seventh Fleet. The "interests" are in controlling the seething revolt of the masses, who have suffered slave conditions long enough and have many times already showed their determination to rebel.

NEW "RAPID REACTION STRIKE FORCE"

But this military occupation is not enough for the U.S. The March 30 Philadelphia Inquirer detailed U.S. plans to build a "rapid reaction strike force" capable of military intervention anywhere in the world. Korea is one of the main "trouble spots" for the strike force, which will consist of more than 100,000 ground troops, tactical air and naval forces including at least one aircraft carrier and more than 70 fighter-bombers, and long-range strategic bombers and transport aircraft.

The constant U.S. aggression of course is a drain on the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK) and its socialist allies, who must divert huge portions of their human and material resources to defense, instead of using them to build and develop their countries. The DPRK has only about half the population of south Korea, so it feels the pinch caused by its need to be constantly on guard. Nevertheless, the standard of living is much higher in the north than the south for an average worker. In the socialist north, there is free medical care for all, universal education, and free child care for all working parents. Weekly or 24-hour child care is available for those who need it.

These concrete human advantages are the telling factor. As was proved in Vietnam, the U.S. with all its military might and sophisticated technology is no match for the power of a people determined to be free. But, as with Vietnam, the people of Korea need support, especially from the people of the United States, to hold back the brutal arm of U.S. aggression.

Photo: Women of Korea

Demonstration in India demands "Yankees out of south Korea." Such demonstrations have been held over the past year in cities in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Europe.