

# Israel Must Stop Slaughter of Palestinians

It was most moving. I'm referring to the voice of journalist Terry Anderson, one of the hostages held in captivity in Lebanon for more than a year.

The American newsman made two main points in his recorded message. Firstly, the US administration was not doing enough for the release of himself and others. Secondly, that he was still a captive was indicative of the failure of US policy in the Middle East.

## ATROCITIES

Meanwhile, the killings and destruction of the Iraq/Iran war go on in spite of the UN resolution for a ceasefire. And the slaughter of Palestinians continues in the Israeli-occupied Arab lands.

British Minister of State David Mellors put his finger on the pulse of the problem: not only Israeli atrocities but also miserable living conditions for the Arabs. "An affront to civilised values", he said.

Israel's actions are a blatant violation of the principles of international law. Its resort to the barbaric beatings of Palestinians was condemned even by the Israeli parliament.

The UN Security Council unanimously passed a resolution condemning the forceful deportation of Arabs from the Israeli-occupied territories. So savage has been the treatment meted out to the Palestinians that even the United States voted for the resolution.

## ALLIANCE

Regrettably, a few days later the US State Department backslided. A spokesman declared that Israel was still a staunch ally of the United States. Thereafter, the US Government changed its position at the United Nations. It voted against two Security Council

resolutions, one condemning Israeli attacks against Lebanon.

The US/Israel alliance is of long standing. In November 1981, A Memorandum of Mutual Understanding in the Field of Strategic Co-operation was signed. It provided for joint military exercises, deployment of US weapons in Israel, a NATO "multilateral force" in the Sinai, Israeli support for the US Rapid Deployment Force, and hospital services for US troops wounded in service.

Israel was lavishly supplied

with US military and economic aid, amounting to about a quarter of all US foreign aid.

The Memorandum gave Israel the green light to commit further acts of aggression, apart from the annexation of Eastern Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights, and the bombardment with the most sophisticated US weapons of the civil nuclear research centre in Iraq.

It waged a barbaric, genocidal war against Lebanon, like the Auschwitz genocide, and sanctioned the Rosh Hashonab massacre of thousands in the Sabra and Shatila Palestinian refugee camps. The Arab Foreign Ministers' emergency session declared at the time that the massacre had been made possible only because of "US material, moral, military and political support". And King Hussein of Jordan, an ally of the West, was infuriated with Israel's aggressiveness and US complicity. In an outburst he remarked; "Israel is the US and the US is Israel. That is the reality". The Israelis oper-

ate under "your American protection, your armaments, your material resources. How do you expect us to be tolerant?"

## CONFLAGRATION

The genocidal war was intended to crush the left-wing Lebanese militia allies to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and make Lebanon into a client state to destroy the PLO and to disperse the Palestinian people. According to the TRINIDAD EXPRESS, July 10, 1982, Washington Times White House Correspondent Jeremiah O'Leary asked a White House official whether the Reagan administration want-

done by breaking with the rightist-Zionists in Israel and by convening the Geneva Conference, of which the USA and the USSR are co-chairman.

The USA cannot hope to bring peace in the Middle East while it is blatantly partisan. It closed down the PLO's UN office in New York and the Palestine Information Office in Washington, for which it was criticised by the Washington Post, New York Times, New York News-Day and the American-Israeli Civil Liberties Union. The Christian Science Monitor aptly headlined: "Administration raps Israeli's knuckles but vows continued support".

The USA must stop shirking from giving real leadership. It has a moral duty to support an international Conference with the participation of all parties, including the PLO. The recent Arab Summit in Amman signified its support. So have the Prime Minister of Austria, the Labour Party of Israel and the Soviet Union.

Such a Conference must serve the interests of all including the Palestinians and Israelis. It must have as its aim:

- 1) the withdrawal of all Israelis from all occupied Arab lands in keeping with UN resolution 241;
- 2) the recognition of the borders and security of all Middle East states, including Israel;
- 3) the establishment of a Palestinian state on the West Bank/Gaza Strip.

The naval forces of the NATO countries in the Persian Gulf also should be replaced by a UN peace-keeping force.

## SOLUTION

The time has come to defuse the dangerous situation and to stop the slaughter. This can be

## Straight Talk by CHEDDI JAGAN

ed the Palestinian guerilla forces to go to several countries; he replied "Right, break them up".

In the senseless Iraq/Iran war, the USA supplied arms to Iraq while Israel rendered military supplies to Iran with the strategic aim that both anti-imperialist countries would exhaust and possibly destroy themselves. Later, the "Irangate" scandal disclosed a US/Iran arms/hostages deal and the diversion of profits from the arms sale to the counter-revolutionary "contras" of Nicaragua.

Large naval military forces of several NATO countries in the Persian Gulf pose the danger of a wider conflagration.