

# THE WORKER 75¢

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## What Is the Issue?

We condemn Israel's aggression against the Palestinian people, against the Syrian Arab Republic, and against Lebanon. Israel's actions have once again been authored and organized by the United States with the support of the UK. They are a violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the elementary norms of international relations, the declared will of almost every country in the world, and the inviolable right to resist, arms-in-hand, against imperialism. So too, this U.S.-Israeli aggression poses a grave danger to the whole globe's peace and security.

Israel is a stronghold of U.S. imperialism in the Middle East and a continuous instrument of imperialist conspiracy against Palestinian freedom and sovereignty.

Today, hundreds of millions of people are already rallying around the Palestinian people, supporting their struggle and coming out in opposition to U.S.-Israeli aggression.

Israel's latest act of aggression was long premeditated and prepared in advance against the Palestinian resistance. This act of aggression is in line with the state of Israel's longstanding and unrestrained militarism, bestial racism, and absurd territorial pretensions. The aim is to retain under Israeli occupation parts of the territories of the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon, which Israel has conquered by force, and inside Israel's own borders to prevent the possibility of Palestinian secession.

We firmly condemn the U.S., UK, and Israeli governments as the ones responsible for all the consequences of the aggression. We demand from them complete and immediate reparations for all the damage that was caused to the Palestinians,

the Syrian Arab Republic, and Lebanon, as well as the restitution of all seized property.

We demand instantly the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all the occupied territories of Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic, and Lebanon. We oppose the U.S. agenda for Palestine in all its forms – especially the chauvinist, provocative, and offensive policy of demanding that Palestinians must renounce their struggle for national liberation, renounce all resistance to the occupation, and even bring Palestinian security forces directly under the control of the CIA to help it hunt down and suppress the heroic armed resistance.

The right of the Palestinian nation to resist oppression and imperialism is recognized even in international law. However, the issue goes far beyond this.

The struggles for liberation of oppressed nations, such as the Palestinians, Iraqis, and others serve as a significant driving force for progress and democracy. When these peoples successfully defeat colonial occupiers and assert their sovereignty, their lands transform from being bases for imperialism and war to bases for peace, equality, and friendship.

We declare that it is the future of the American people to strengthen and further organize their support for the struggle of the Palestinians and to win the demand for the immediate end of all U.S. government aid to the state of Israel. Peace will come to the Holy Land only when the Israeli aggressors dismantle all their settlements and when all the Palestinian people can return to their homes under the protection of a genuinely sovereign Palestinian state.

## Israel — U.S. Imperialism's Guard Dog in the Middle East

In 1949, the U.S. signed the Tripartite Agreement guaranteeing that the Israeli military would remain the strongest power in the region. Successive U.S. administrations have reaffirmed their support for this strategic agreement.

The U.S. alliance with Israel was especially strengthened during the Nixon years, when the U.S. embarked on the program of building up regional military allies as surrogates for direct U.S. bases, and Israel was turned into a garrison for the U.S. military. In 1981, under President Reagan, the U.S. signed

a "Memorandum of Understanding" with Israel as part of new agreements on "strategic military cooperation," and the U.S. and Israel conducted their first joint naval and air military exercises. Reagan was quoted as saying "[Israel] is a force in the Middle East that actually is a benefit to us...If there were not Israel there with that force, we'd have to supply that with our own, so this isn't just altruism on our part."

In 1988, the U.S. and Israel signed another memorandum in which Israel was declared "a major non-

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## Guard Dog

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NATO" ally of the United States and received preferential treatment in military contract bidding.

Over the last 50 years, the U.S. government has provided Israel with \$100 billion in military and economic aid. Today, U.S. annual aid to Israel has reached an average of \$3 billion in direct grants, \$1.2 billion in economic aid, and \$1.8 billion in military aid. Also, since the Persian Gulf War of 1991, the U.S. has been providing Israel with \$2 billion annually in federal loan guarantees, and total financial aid is about \$5 billion, or \$13.7 million per day. Also, more than \$1.5 billion in private U.S. funds go to Israel annually in the form of \$1 billion in private tax-deductible donations and \$500 million in Israeli bonds.

With this aid, the U.S. government has fully supported Israeli expansion, war, and genocide against the Palestinian people. The U.S. has vetoed over two dozen United Nations resolutions condemning Israeli aggression and occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

Since the U.S. launched its war on terrorism, President Bush has instructed the Sharon government in Israel to seek a "final solution" to the Palestinian "problem." This has resulted in a massive invasion and occupation of West Bank towns and villages. Today, Israel's strategic plan is to reoccupy areas under the control of the Palestinians, expropriate and colonize more Palestinian land and further destroy the infrastructure of Palestinian society. The Israeli army, assisted by the paramilitary settlers, sub-

ject the West Bank Palestinians to murder, torture, imprisonment and exile.

Recently, Israel began construction of a wall consisting of electronic fences, razor wire, trenches and concrete barriers. It will put thousands of acres of West Bank land and tens of thousands of Palestinians on the Israeli side while further cantoning the West Bank into isolated communities.

The state of Israel remains the strategic lynch-pin in U.S. imperialism's hegemonic strategy in the Middle East. Israel today is practically the "51st state" of the U.S. In turn, it is used by U.S. imperialism as a stable base for pursuing its interests in the Middle East. Following the advice of Theodor Herzl, the founder of modern-day zionism, that the west would need a guard for the Suez Canal and "be a rampart of Europe against Asia, an outpost of civilization against barbarism," Israel remains a U.S. dagger in the heart of the Arab peoples.

In 1968, a former Prime Minister of Israel, Levi Eshko, stated "the value of Israel to the west in this part of the world will, I predict, be out of all proportion to its size. We will be a real bridge between the three continents and the free world will be very thankful not only if we survive, but if we continue to thrive in secure and guaranteed frontiers."

After the Cold War, one senior Israeli official commented that Israel would be "the biggest aircraft carrier in the Mediterranean...its role would be confirmed and expanded to include the Mediterranean, the Gulf, and Central Asia. It would become a vanguard in

the coming crusade against what is known in the west as Islamic fundamentalism and extremism...it would be in the forefront of the fight against terrorism."

In fact, U.S. imperialism has always used Israel as a military base of operations against the Arab liberation movements. In 1956, for example, Israel launched an attack against Egypt after Nasser nationalized the Suez canal. In 1967, Israel, instigated and backed by U.S. imperialism, waged a full-scale war against Palestine and Jordan, occupying the West Bank and Gaza strip, expropriating Palestinian land and forcing tens of thousands into exile. In the 1970s and 80s, Israel constantly launched attacks against the Arab people of Lebanon and Syria. In 1982, Israel invaded and occupied Lebanon, carrying out a genocidal policy against the Palestinian population. Israel has also been used repeatedly against Iraq, including the notorious 1981 attack on a nuclear reactor in Baghdad. Today, Israel is in the forefront of preparing and calling for attacks on Syria and Iran.

Clearly, U.S. imperialism will continue to support Israel in order to maintain it as its permanent military outpost in the strategic Middle East.

Supporting the Palestinian struggle and fighting to cutoff U.S. support for Israel is thus a vital component of the struggle against imperialism and for peace in the Middle East and the world. We must demand the immediate cut off of all U.S. aid to Israel and an end to U.S. interference and intervention in the Middle East.

### Editor: Anne Beck

*In August we published a Special Edition of The Worker to coincide with the launch of our new campaign slogan. Members, friends and supporters of the Workers Party are encouraged to participate in the campaign by reciting the slogan with others in any language of their choice while shaking hands and looking into each other's eyes. Here it is: "If you are illegal, then I am Illegal!" Do it with love in your heart. We are looking forward to even more write-ins and reports. Tell us anything you'd like to about your experience with it.*

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