Jesse Jackson - mass outreach

forum held by the Conference of Presidents of Major American-Jewish Organizations, Dukakis blamed the intransigence of Arab leaders for the absence of peace in the region. But he failed to explicitly rule out US support for an independent Palestinian state, and even opined that the final status of Jerusalem should be «subject to negotiations.» Subsequently, he volunteered: «if Israel wants its capital in Jerusalem then, as far as I'm concerned, its capital is in Jerusalem.»

Finally, Dukakis would oppose arms sales to Arab countries that are thought to endanger Israeli security. He would not sell advanced equipment to countries that refuse to take part in the US-sponsored peace process. He would like an international naval force in the Gulf. For the record, he was opposed to the US bombing of Libya in 1985.

In assessing Dukakis' Middle East policy, one could say that it is not better than Bush's. There are differences, but these center on the details of how to best support 'Israel' and promote US interests in the region. Dukakis showed himself more ready to meet certain Israeli demands, such as on the status of Jerusalem. Bush, for his part, shares the militaristic approach of the Reagan era which funded Israeli aggression at an unprecedented level, as in the 1982 invasion of Lebanon, joint «Star Wars» research and military cooperation, etc.

CATERING FAILS

It had been widely assumed that Dukakis had the so-called Jewish vote locked up, as a liberal and devoted friend of 'Israel'. Yet, despite all the above-mentioned facts and catering, the Zionist lobby in the US expressed a preference for Bush and not Dukakis, for the following reasons: (1) Dukakis opposes the SDI program which could mean cancelling US-Israeli cooperation in this field. (2) He declared South Africa a terrorist and racist state; called for a break in US-South Africa ties; and warned all countries that have dealings with the apartheid government. (3) He belongs to the American Civil Liberties Union whose lawyers played a prominent role in the defense of the Los Angeles 8(threatened with deportation due to their work for the Palestinian cause), and in confronting the attempt to close the PLO's UN mission. (4) It was within the Democratic Party that the issue of Palestinian self-determination and statehood was discussed. Thus, the Zionist lobby demonstrated that its priority is a militaristic and expansionist 'Israel' at all costs, rather than