

# Letters

*This summer we received the following letter from an Irish Prisoner of War:*

By good fortune I have come upon a copy of your magazine called «Democratic Palestine» which I have enjoyed reading very much. I was delighted to see your interview with Gerry Adams the President of Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA (Irish Republican Army). I would very much like to receive your magazine on a regular basis and any other progressive, revolutionary literature you may have. As you can see from my address, I am at present a Prisoner of War so I hope you will be able to help me; political hostages have plenty of time on their hands and there is much to be learned. Victory to the Irish and Palestinian people.

*We have received two telexes from Japan, relating protest events against Israeli Foreign Minister Shamir's visit there:*

The Japanese Committee to Protest Shamir's Visit to Japan has submitted an appeal to the Japanese Foreign Ministry, expressing outrage over the decision to officially invite him. Citing Shamir's role in the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, his past involvement in terrorist activities and his support for annexation and colonization of the occupied territories, the committee opposed Shamir's visit to Japan as contrary to the interests of peace in the Middle East.

The committee is composed of specialists on Middle East affairs, university professors, authors and artists. They have indicated that they will continue to speak out against the planned visit: «We are very much disturbed by the news that Shamir will visit Japan on September 6-10th. He was foreign minister at the time of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. This invasion left 20,000 people dead, 30,000 injured and 600,000 homeless. It also brought with it the massacre of over 1,500 Palestinians in Beirut. Shamir bears primary responsibility for this tragic war, as confirmed by the International People's Tribunal held in Japan in 1983. With regard to the massacre of Palestinians, even Israel's own investigation committee indicated that responsibility lay with the Israeli government.

«During the 1930s and 40s, Shamir was a leading member of a Jewish terrorist group in Palestine and involved in terrorist training. It was also reported that his group was responsible for the assassination of Britain's High Commissioner Lord Moyne in Cairo in 1944, as well as the assassination of UN Mediator Count Folke Bernadotte in Jerusalem in 1948, and for the massacre of 200 Palestinians in Deir Yassin in the same year.

«Shamir is also leader of the Likud coalition in the Israeli government. This coalition has supported a policy of annexation and colonization of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which

were brought under Israeli occupation following the 3rd Middle East war in 1967, and expelling Palestinians from these areas, along with annexation of East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights...»

## **Demonstration vs. Shamir visit**

On September 6th, Japanese people in Tokyo demonstrated in protest of Shamir's visit. The demonstrators were wearing the Palestinian black and white scarf (hatta) and shouting slogans of solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, and condemning Israel and Shamir as an internationally known terrorist. The demonstrators gathered at a rally where speakers from the ten groups organizing the event spoke.



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## *Correction*

*In «Democratic Palestine» no.9 and 10 we printed the telex number of «Al Hadaf» incorrectly. Please note the correct number is 411667. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you.*