

The Palestinian Liberation Organisation

THE Palestine people face two forms of occupation. On one hand there are over half a million Palestinians who live in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinian territories occupied by Israel in 1967 and since then they have been under military administration. On the other there are 600,000 Palestinians who have lived in Israel since 1948. These are under-privileged, racially discriminated against and oppressed by the Zionists.

The Palestinians have a rich history of resistance to Zionist occupation. In 1921 and 1924 there were great revolts against Zionist emigration to Palestine. The biggest revolt was in 1936. The Palestinian people staged a strike

which covered the whole land and lasted for six months. The years 1942 and 1948 also witnessed two other major up-risings.

ARMED RESISTANCE

Armed resistance to the occupation of Palestine began in 1965. It was marked by a number of small-scale, hit-and-run attacks. Well-trained and well-armed by guerilla standards, the PLO fighters have proved their worth in numerous battles against Israeli soldiers. On March 21st 1968 twenty thousand Zionist soldiers attacked the village of Karameh. At the time there were only 500 PLO guerillas at the village. They offered stubborn resistance,

forcing the enemy to retreat from the village after 8 hours of fierce fighting. About 100 enemy soldiers were killed, 38 tanks and 138 cars destroyed.

Formed in 1964, the PLO is a front, bringing together many Palestinian organisations. The major ones are Al Fatah, under the leadership of Yasser Arafat; the PFLP (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine) under the leadership of George Habash; the DFLP (Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine) and the Arabic Front.

This PLO guerilla fighting on the Golan heights is kitted-out in vilian clothes, which include the famous shemagh head scarf. PLO troops usually wear military uniform. Armament comprises an automatic pistol, worn at the waist, and a Degtyarev RPD light machine gun. Capable of a practical rate of fire of 150 rounds per minute the RPD is fed by two 50-round ammunition belts held in a drum magazine.



VIVA PLO