

# **U.S. Imperialism Engineers Large-Scale Armed Suppression of Palestinian Guerrillas in Jordan**

U.S. imperialism has instigated the reactionary forces in Jordan to start a large-scale armed suppression of the Palestinian guerrillas. In the small hours of September 17, Jordan's reactionary forces launched **armed attacks on the Palestinian guerrillas simultaneously in Amman, the capital, and other parts of the country.**

**This is the largest armed suppression of the Palestinian guerrillas engineered by U.S. imperialism in Jordan since November 1968.** It is another grave step taken by U.S. imperialism after forcibly pushing the "Rogers plan" in the Middle East in collusion with another "superpower." Through this mass slaughter, U.S. imperialism hopes to stamp out the flames of the Palestinian people's armed struggle and split the unity of the Arab countries and the Arab people. It also seeks to realize the "Middle East Munich" scheme, carry out aggression in the Middle East and gain control in the area.

After dishing up the "Rogers plan" last June, the United States began urging Jordan's reactionary forces to step up armed provocations and attacks against the Palestinian guerrillas. On September 16, a military government was set up in Jordan according to the instructions of U.S. imperialism. Military control was at once instituted throughout the country and military officers were appointed to run all regions of Jordan. In its first proclamation reeking with gunpowder, the military government declared that it would "strike with an iron fist at all creators of disorder." Large contingents of troops were called out in Amman, Zarka, Salt, Kerak and other places and frenzied attacks were launched against the Palestinian guerrillas with tanks, armoured cars, artillery and other weapons supplied by the United States and Britain. Jordanian armoured units withdrawn from the Israel front to the vicinity of Amman were moved into Amman to attack the headquarters of the Central Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the guerrilla bases. The chieftain of the Jordanian armed forces demanded September 17 that the Palestinian guerrillas

hand over their weapons and surrender to the Jordanian army.

## **Guerrillas Fight Back in Self-Defence**

The Palestinian guerrillas put up a resolute tit-for-tat struggle against U.S. imperialism's plot of suppression. The Central Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization at a meeting on September 16 decided to put the Palestine Liberation Army, all the guerrilla units and the militia under a central command. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the P.L.O. Central Committee, was appointed General Commander, and Razzak Yehia, Commander-in-Chief of the Palestine Liberation Army, Chief of the General Staff.

Yasser Arafat ordered all the guerrilla forces not to open fire at any military position of the Jordanian armed forces except in self-defence, and to repulse the Jordanian forces if they attack any guerrilla base.

The Palestinian guerrillas fought back courageously and met the attacks of the Jordanian reactionary forces head on. Fierce fighting went on in Amman, the capital, and Zarka, Salt, Suweilih, Irbid and Ramtha in northern Jordan.

Amman was the scene of the heaviest fighting. For three days running, on September 17, 18 and 19, the Jordanian military government sent a large force of armoured units, under the cover of aircraft and artillery fire, into action. They frenziedly attacked the Palestinian guerrilla bases and refugee camps in the capital and its outskirts, even using phosphorous shells and napalm supplied by the U.S. imperialists. But all attempts to gain control of Amman failed. The Palestinian guerrillas held their positions.

Fighting in the northern part of the country became more intense as the reactionary forces sent reinforcements of armoured units there. On September 19, they mounted fierce attacks on Irbid, Jordan's second largest city, and the northern strategic town of Ramtha on the border. All-night fighting went on, and the guerrillas rolled back the enemy's attacks. The radio

of the P.L.O. Central Committee reported that the guerrillas were now in control of the northern areas and the key approaches.

The rabid suppression of the Palestinian guerrillas by the reactionary Jordanian forces at the instigation of U.S. imperialism stirred up strong feelings among patriotic officers and soldiers of the Jordanian army. On September 18, officers and men of the "Al Hussein Brigade" crossed over to the side of the Palestinian resistance forces with their weapons. Subsequently, a great number of Jordanian officers and men, including a Colonel Agloni and five officers of other ranks joined the forces of the Palestinian revolution. The P.L.O. radio announced that all Jordanian officers and soldiers who had rebelled against the reactionary forces were assigned to posts to defend the Palestinian revolution.

### **U.S. Imperialism Plots Criminal Activities**

Numerous facts show that the scheme of this large-scale suppression of the Palestinian guerrillas has been long planned by U.S. imperialism, and that it has a direct part in it. The daily *Fateh* revealed on August 18 that Horan, First Secretary of the U.S. Embassy in Amman, who speaks fluent Arabic, has been unusually active and was known to have "made extensive connections" in the plot to crack down on the guerrillas. The U.S.-financed "Jordanian Family Organization," a secret service set-up notorious for its criminal armed suppression of the guerrillas last June, has been reorganized with a new leadership. The same paper pointed out that it was "in compliance with the orders of the C.I.A. and the U.S. Embassy in Amman" that the reactionary Jordanian forces have gradually begun their suppression of the Palestinian guerrillas at the end of August. The P.L.O. Central Committee exposed in a statement early in September that the bosses of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency were then in Amman to direct the scheme. On the eve of the large-scale attacks on the Palestinian guerrillas by the reactionary Jordanian forces, a hush-hush meeting of high-ranking U.S. military and civil officials was called by U.S. imperialist chieftain Nixon mid-night September 15. On that very day, Louis Brown, the new U.S. Ambassador to Jordan, turned up in Amman in great haste.

In the meantime, U.S. imperialism alerted its own troops in preparation for joint suppression, in co-ordination with the reactionary Jordanian forces, of the Palestinian people's armed struggle against the U.S. and Israeli aggressors. According to reports by U.S. and other Western news agencies, the U.S. Defence Department ordered on September 18 that "additional ships and planes move into the Mediterranean to strengthen U.S. forces" there. By this order the main ships of the U.S. 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean were concentrated in the eastern part of the Mediterranean. Moreover, U.S. imperialism has sent ships and planes from the United States to the Mediterranean to strengthen its aggressive troops there. It was reported that the helicopter carrier *Guam* with

1,100 marines on board left Port Norfolk, Virginia, under order, on September 17 for the Mediterranean, one day ahead of schedule, to join the 1,500 marines already in the 6th Fleet. In addition, three landing craft and the amphibian *Pocono* sailed to the Mediterranean together with the *Guam*. Some 10 days before, the Nixon government sent 6 giant C-130 transport planes to Turkey and threatened to send more planes of this kind there and to Greece as well. The U.S. Defence Department also declared that the 88th Airborne Division, ready at home, "was capable of rapid deployment." On September 18, White House press secretary Ziegler disclosed that the Nixon government had long drawn up "contingency plans" on the Jordanian question. All this fully reveals the long mapped-out vicious design of U.S. imperialism to intervene in the Jordan situation, in a vain attempt to suppress the Palestinian people by armed force.

U.S. bourgeois politicians and press are also energetically creating public opinion for direct intervention in Jordan to suppress the Palestinian people's armed struggle. According to reports by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and *Miami Herald*, Nixon said that the United States was ready to intervene in Jordan if the reactionary Jordanian forces failed to suppress the Palestinian people's armed forces. Some even threatened to carry out "a surgical-type raid" on the guerrillas. Nixon's "Special Action Group" presided over by Kissinger, Nixon's adviser for "security affairs," held frequent urgent meetings recently in Washington at which the plot of U.S. intervention in Jordan was cooked up.

These activities apart, the Nixon government has instigated the Israeli Zionists to join in the suppression of the Palestinian people and mass their aggressor troops on the Jordan River. Recently, it gave Israel another 18 Phantom jets. On the very day when the reactionary forces in Jordan started to attack the Palestinian guerrillas, it summoned Israeli "prime minister" Golda Meir to Washington for clandestine consultations. Meir was assured of more economic and military aid from the United States, a move designed to encourage Israel to launch further frantic attacks on the Palestinian and other Arab people. In a television speech on September 20 in Washington in which she referred to the situation in Jordan, Meir said that "there may be a situation when we will think that it has become intolerable and extremely dangerous for us." Quoting "highly placed reliable circles," *Haaretz*, published in Tel Aviv, said that Israel reserved the right to take "appropriate actions or reactions in the case of extreme changes in Jordan or the threat of such changes which could impair Israel's security." All this sabre-rattling fully reveals the diabolic intentions of the U.S. imperialists.

What has happened makes it clear that U.S. imperialism is the instigator of the large-scale suppression of the Palestinian guerrillas. By using the vicious tactics of attacking the Palestinian guerrillas inside and outside Jordan, it has hoped to achieve the criminal objective of liquidating them at one stroke.