



## appeals and messages



### in the face of a new Zionist assault



The occupation of Palestine by Israel has led Zionism to the perpetration of the worst crimes against the Palestinian people and the Arab homeland, of which one of the latest is the burning down of the Al Aksa Mosque in Jerusalem on August 21, 1969, a fire which the Israeli authorities delayed in putting out and prevented the Arab people from fighting, by shooting at them when they were trying to save the mosque.

The perpetration of this serious act by the Israeli authorities is only one in a se-

ries of actions and plans aimed at turning the city of Jerusalem into a Zionist center and wiping out all Arab and Islamic traces. All of this is carried out in violation of international law and agreements, particularly the Geneva Convention and other agreements on the preservation of antiquities.

To this end, the Israeli authorities recently enacted a law requiring every cooperative association or society, every lawyer, every doctor, every employer in occupied Jerusalem to re-register in the Israeli service within a period of six months, in accordance with Israeli rules, and also seizing the property of Arabs who are away.

Israel's Minister of Justice stated on May 7, 1969 that the Ministry, the Israeli High Court and the Jerusalem Tribunal, as well as the police headquarters, would be moved to the Arab sector of the occupied city of Jerusalem. Likewise, there are daily reports on the Israeli military raids and revengeful persecutions, all of them aimed at forcing the Arab population to an exodus, by destroying their homes, confiscating their property and wealth and by various other means of coercion. It is a known fact that the Israeli authorities demolished the Al Magharibeh district, in the neighborhood of the Al Aksa Mosque, forcing its residents to evacuate.

In the face of these horrible crimes, the Palestinian people have been compelled to intensify the armed struggle more than ever, to recover their legitimate rights usurped by the Zionist invader, the tool



of imperialism headed by the United States.

The Executive Secretariat of OSPAAAL considers that the Israeli authorities are responsible for the fire, for this criminal act is a result of their systematic attitude of ignoring and trampling on every Arab right in Jerusalem. The Israeli authorities have repeatedly expressed their intention to rebuild the so-called Temple of Solomon on the very site of the Al Aksa Mosque. They have expressed, on several occasions, their determination to turn the Arab city of Jerusalem into the capital of Zionism.

The Executive Secretariat of OSPAAAL condemns this crime which is an expression of the permanent Zionist aggressiveness against the Arab people and their millenarian civilization, and reasserts the legitimate historic rights of the Arab people in Jerusalem.

The Executive Secretariat of OSPAAAL reiterates on this occasion its militant support of the Palestinian people in their struggle for the liberation of their occupied homeland, and exhorts all the member organizations to extend full support to this just struggle.