

carried out by non-Arab foreigners with passports from four different countries. Both the Lebanese Prime Minister and official spokesmen for the PLO attributed the attacks to Israel, and the official PLO news agency Wafa said the attacks were in revenge for Palestinian commando raids into Israel.

The Associated Press, however, quoted other unidentified sources claiming that dissident groups such as the Iraq-allied Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) were behind the attack. PLO head Yasser Arafat's CIA faction of the Palestinians has steadily been attacking both Iraq and the Iraqi-allied Palestinian groups as "Zionist agents of American intelligence," so that the rocket attacks now give Arafat additional cover as a militant guerilla.

Press Psywar

Today, the Washington Post reported from Beirut that according to "highly reliable sources," the Soviets urged Arafat to adopt peaceful procedures with Israel, arguing that the latter "would count on Palestinian extremists and their intransigence to block the PLO's participation in peace-making efforts." The Post leak and that of the Associated Press are designed to set up the PFLP for elimination in a civil war. This will remove a major roadblock to finishing off Iraq, the only remaining opposition to Rockefeller in the Mideast. Other terrorism, including the recent hijacking of a British plane, has been pinned on the pro-Iraq guerilla organizations.

The half-hearted Soviet support for Arafat is providing him with a left cover for an impending bloody purge of the pro-Iraq Palestinian dissidents. In Baghdad, Iraq, Abu Nidal, the leader of Palestinian groups there, warned this week that Arafat's control of the PLO, in the service of U.S. lackeys Sadat of Egypt and King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, will provoke a civil war.

DEPRESSION HOUSING: SHANTYTOWNS

Dec. 11 (IPS)--Working-class families are now being driven out of their homes by this winter's "Energy Crisis" operation. A grim example is Baltimore, where families are moving out of single- and multiple-family homes because they can't afford skyrocketing energy costs. This winter, for the first time, local landlords and owners will be able to pass fuel costs directly on to tenants; in response, numbers of tenants are vacating their three-decker houses. Some are being converted into one-family homes, aggravating the housing shortage; other houses have been abandoned by tenant and owner alike.

Even more desperate is the situation at Rocky's Athabasca Tar Sands slave-labor project in Alberta, Canada--where workers

are living in converted buses and tents because they can afford nothing else. The company says it will provide adequate prefabricated and mobile housing...in two years. Meanwhile, trailers perch on the edge of the town dump and on sites carved out of a gravel pit--but these can be afforded only by government employees on \$10,000-a-year salaries.

Press Hails Hoovervilles

The New York Times this week carried an approving article on the emergence of a new "interest group"--mobile home tenants. While acknowledging the near total social and political control exercised over tenants by mobile home park owners, the Times gives the nod to the "movement to humanize" the trailer sites, which are described as "good places to raise children."

In line with creating the new interest group, a New York state "Mobile Home Bill of Rights" took effect Jan. 1, 1974, limiting evictions and arbitrary rules by park owners. The issue currently being fought out is rent control.

Also this week the San Francisco press covered a new study commissioned by HUD, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Council on Environmental Quality. The study, entitled "The Cost of Urban Sprawl," details how single-family suburban homes are more air- and water-polluting, energy-consuming, and costly for the government than any other form of housing--pointing the way toward the depression "alternative" of shantytowns.

STRANGE BUT TRUE...

Dec. 11 (IPS)--The death yesterday of Algerian Interior Minister Ahmed Medeghri, following a parley with French Interior Minister Michel Poniatowski, caps a series of deaths and illnesses among Arab celebrities. In a highly unlikely string of coincidental deaths in an area where Western intelligence services are often known to work overtime, at least five Arab personalities have met untimely ends.

Beginning with the Oct. 20 death of pro-socialist Iraqi Foreign Minister Shazel Taka, who died at the Rabat Hilton Hotel just before the opening of a crucial Arab summit meeting, this series of deaths included the following people:

*Anwar Ali, governor of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, who served Rockefeller as overseer of the recycling and investment of billions of Saudi petrodollars.

*Omar Saqqaf, the Saudi Foreign Minister, who died in New York at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, and who together with Ali formed a critical (but apparently expendable) team of Arabian rulers.