

It was at this point that the real massacres began. The civilians, caught out of their shelters by the sudden isolationist attack, were overrun by the fascist forces, who immediately began separating them, letting the Lebanese among them go, robbing the Palestinian women, children and old people and sending them to find their way to Western Beirut, and capturing and systematically murdering all men between the ages of 15 and 50.

Those men who escaped this first massacre were taken from their trucks and murdered along the road to Western Beirut by isolationist forces at checkpoint after checkpoint. Those civilians remaining in the camp after the first rush ended were dragged from their homes and shot in the streets of the camp, where the bodies of women and children in the hundreds were seen by at least a dozen foreign correspondents today.

The isolationists proudly told them that these people had been killed yesterday, and that all the men had been taken aside and shot. Reporters today saw piles of male corpses in various open spaces around the camp where they had been lined up and shot by their captors. At least 2,000 bodies are currently strewn in the streets and alley-ways of the camp, while perhaps a thousand men were killed elsewhere, some in Dekwaneh near the camp and others along the road to Western Beirut.

### Egypt At The Crossroads: The View From Inside

*The following is an analysis of the Egyptian situation as reported to NSIPS by an Egyptian journalist:*

There is a strong communist movement in Egypt, underground. This is the first time that a real Communist party has taken national organizing seriously. The present organization is still somewhat unorganized, but is rapidly creating the basis for a national organization, and has begun developing an important presence in the trade unions. It began a year ago, with the publication in Beirut of the Egyptian Communist Party manifesto. That manifesto had a wide impact in Egypt, because it dealt with the actual economic problems in Egypt and had a program. It enunciated the dissatisfaction that people felt with the Open Door policy of the Sadat regime, and demanded the strengthening of the state industry sector.

These communists are new, and they come from the people. The old communists are discredited and have in some cases, like Lutfi Kholy, joined the regime for all intents and purposes. But the new organization has greatly affected and influenced the Loyal Opposition, like Rose al-Yousef and ASU leader Khalid Muhieddine. The Al-Talia group, also "ex-communists" is discredited as well, although they are also subject to the influence of the new party. Soon, perhaps early next year, they will begin to surface more openly.

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At present communism cannot come to Egypt, because the peasants are dominant and too backward. The new Communist Party organizes and does not stupidly wave red books in front of the peasants. Development is the top priority issue, most likely under a left-Bonapartist regime.

The army is a critical factor. After 1967 the army was reorganized and huge numbers of university graduates were brought into the officers' corps because Nasser realized that you cannot win a war with an army of peasants. These new officers can think, and are not about to fight any colonial wars against Libya. Nevertheless, the Libyan scare is good internal propaganda.

Thus, at least 3000 people — all unarmed civilians, — were killed. (The fighters yesterday and the night before began to make their way either to the top of the camp, or up into the mountains.) Throughout the bloody siege of Tal-Al-Zaatar approximately 2000 were killed, excluding this final battle.

It was expected that the fascist forces would do this if they could, and it was for this reason that the leadership of the Palestinian Revolution attempted to come to an agreement regarding the evacuation of the wounded, and then of the civilian population. But like mad dogs, the isolationists would not be restrained, for the only force in the world which could have restrained them was egging them on, and had sent its personal envoy, Col. Ali Al-Madani and his fellow Syrian officers to supervise the successful completion of the "final solution" to the problem of Tal Al-Zaatar.

The Lebanese fascist parties and groups have in a half dozen similar massacres shown that they are little more than war criminals, truly mad dogs, who can hardly be controlled. But the Syrian regime, which can and does exert a significant measure of control over them, instead released them to butcher Palestinian women and children. It is this regime which bears the major share of the responsibility for the deaths of these people, and which will ultimately pay the price.

Mamdouh Salem, the prime minister, spends most of every day in negotiations with the International Monetary Fund. Salem is afraid, because the IMF is demanding that the subsidies on wheat be eliminated — which will cause the price of bread to rise from 5 cents to 10 cents a loaf (by 2000 per cent). This will set off a social revolution in days. It is not possible — yet it is being demanded. Sadat is playing games, walking a tightrope, using the left against the right and vice versa, bargaining, wheeling, and dealing.

But Egypt cannot break with the U.S. Sadat is steering toward a "normalization" of Egypt-USSR relations, but one should not expect anything sudden like a Cabinet reshuffle. The U.S. has a long arm in Egypt, and Egypt is crushed between the U.S. and the Saudis.

Egyptians are shocked by Sadat. When he said, "The U.S. holds 99 per cent of the cards in the Mideast," people couldn't believe it. The latest outrage in Egypt is the Sudan murders. Sadat's association with the butcher Numeiry has scandalized Egypt. Such a wave of executions could never happen in Egypt, and Qaddafi's accusations about Egypt-Sudan plots have thus had a profound impact. Egypt is civilized.

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