VIEWPOINT



Reader explains Palestinian group

The Palestine Liberation Organization is a democratically elected, progressive organization which governs the political, economic and social affairs of the Palestinian people. It is designated by the

Reader's

Forum

Palestinian people to realize their national rights to return to their own country and to exercise their right to self determi-

The first national Congress, attended by representatives of the Palestinians, met in Jerusalem in May 1964 and elected an executive committee. This committee oversees different departments of the PLO that deal with health, welfare, education, arts and culture, diplomacy and other affairs. The 13th Palestine National Congress met in March 1977 in Cairo, Egypt and and reelected chairman Yassir Arafat and an executive committee of 14 members.

The Palestinian people send elected representatives to the National Congress from their different organizations. These include professional associations, such as teachers, doctors and lawyers; popular organizations: student unions, women's unions, writers and journalists unions; trade and labor organizations; students unions; trade and labor organizations; political parties and movements.

The Palestine National Congress in-

cludes representatives from the occupied territories (West Bank and Gaza). They are members of the Palestinian National Front, the organization that has led the struggle against Israeli occupation. Moreover, a number of Palestinian leaders whom Israel expelled from the West Bank and Gaza, are representatives in the Congress and Executive Committee. Israeli Arabs also have representatives in

the National Congress. The PLO budget comes directly from Palestinians who pay an income tax which goes directly to the PLO national fund. Income from this source represents 80 percent of the PLO budget. The rest comes as aid directly from friendly countries and Arab popular contributions.

The PLO has a vast program for social, economic, educational and human welfare for the Palestinians. In the last twelve years, it has built 50 hospitals and 120 medical clinics, which provide free medical treatment. It has built hundreds of schools and established special programs for the education of children. It established rehabilitation centers and vocational training centers. The Palestine Red Crescent (similar to the Red Cross) has been established to oversee the medical programs. The PLO has also established research centers and encouraged the revival of Palestinian arts, filmmaking and literature.

PLO economic institution, SAMED, employs more than 5,000 men and women in factories run by elected workers' councils. The workers themselves make all major decisions including their rate of pay. The majority of these workers are the families of martyrs.

The Palestine Liberation Organization has a progressive ideology. It calls for the establishment of a secular, democratic, progressive state in Palestine where Jews, Christians and Moslems will co-exist with full and equal rights. In his 1974 speech to the United Nations, Yassir Arafat said: We do distinguish between Judaism and Zionism. While we maintain our opposition to the Colonialist Zionist movement, we respect the Jewish faith. We deplore all the real discrimination suffered by them because of their faith.'

The PLO has been officially recognized by over 120 countries as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Wahid Slieman President General Union of Palestinian Students

Hiding wine from the heathen Warped

Editor's note: Art Buchwald is recycling some of his best columns whilst he and his family soak up the sun and enjoy the soft sea breeze of the Falkland Islands, otherwise known as "Maggie's Vineyard."

by Art Buchwald

Not all the revelations in the Woodward and Bernstein version of Nixon's last 100 days are unsympathetic to him. For example, one thing that struck me was an item that the former President was a wine buff and preferred a very expensive Chateau Margaux. When he went cruising on his yacht Sequoia, he instructed his stewards to serve the Margaux wrapped in a towel to obscure the label, while they served his guests on board a cheap vintage Bordeaux.

Some might think that Mr. Nixon was being petty, but anyone who knows the pleasures of a great wine like Chateau Margaux can appreciate why the former President wouldn't want to waste it on the people he invited aboard the Sequoia.

I have always felt the same way about my good wine. Several years ago, I was given a gift by Baron Philippe Rothschild — a case of Chateau Mouton Rothschild 1955. The nectar at that time sold for about \$40 a bottle. (The rule of any newspaper syndicate is that I cannot accept any gift that I can't eat or drink in 24 hours. Since I figured I could drink a case in 24 hours if I really tried, I never bothered to return it.)

But I didn't drink it. I stashed it away

in the cellar, carefully placing each bottle on its side with the labels face up so I could go down at night and stare at my treasure.

The trouble with having a case of rare wine is that you don't know anybody worthy of serving it to.

Every time someone came to the house for dinner, I would greet him at the door and mentally say to myself: This bum wouldn't know a Chateau Mouton Rothschild from a bottle of Man-

As the years went by, my wine became more valuable, but harder to open. My biggest fear was that if I served a bottle of it and my guests made no comment, I would go berserk and scream at them: "Do you fools realize you're drinking an \$80 bottle of wine?" My second fear was that there would be some guests who would recognize it for what it was, and become so enthused I'd have to open a second bottle which would deplete my

Once I was working on a television show with an important Hollywood producer and writer in my home. My wife fixed us a sandwich lunch. When we walked into the dining room, I discovered to my horror that she had opened one of the bottles of Mouton Rothschild.

Without thinking, I screamed at her: "How could you open a bottle of Mouton Rothschild for these bums?

The TV show went down the drain.

I did open a bottle for my dau 18th birthday, and another was French friend from Paris visited a that left me with nine bottles to before I went to sleep.

Then the Vietnam war riots and all discipline broke down house. Our children had turned lious and nobody was talking to an Strangers in blue jeans with bear clenched fists kept walking in and our house. I forgot all about my

But one day in 1973, I went up attic to find a suitcase. I took a flat and as I was shining it around, Isan of glass in the corner of the auc. over to it. There were nine empty with Chateau Mouton Rothschild lying on the floor. Apparently, to the one of my absences, the flower the WO had had a wine party in the attic.

I let out a scream and my wifen upstairs. She found me on my kneed bing and pounding on the floor."In have I done? What has happened?

crane pe

It's been years, but I still haven't over it. Every once in a while I'll down and say: "If I had only putthe Nun in the wine rack, I would be

man today. So when I read about Mr. Nixon and said he may to protect his Chateau Margaux from heathen guests, my heart went or him. He could have shared it with House but as he told John Dean, "It would been wrong.



Letter: End financial aid to Israe

Editor:

I would like to encourage your readers to write Senators Lloyd Bentsen and John Tower requesting that they submit legislation that will cut off all military and financial aid to Israel unless they agree to withdraw from Beirut and Lebanon.

If Israel attempts the final solution for the PLO and the Palestinians in West Beirut, then U.S. influence in the area will be finished. Sources from Saudi Arabia have informed us that Egypt and other moderate countries in the region including Saudi Arabia will be forced to break diplomatic relations with the United States or be overthrown if Israel follows through with its version of Hitler's Holocaust in Lebanon.

These Saudi Arabian sources stated also that if this happens, one way or another there will be a cutoff of oil from the region to the U.S. and possibly to the entire West. This could seriously erode our relations with western Europe as well, who would blame unconditional U.S. military aid to Israel as the cause of the oil blockade.

At a time when the greenie environmentalists have successfully crippled the nuclear energy option, the United States is more vulnerable than ever to an oil

The United States must end aid now, which is a budget cut that is in order. Simultaneously, Israel must be warned that if it takes action that attacks and imperils U.S. strategic interests in the Middle East and threatens our oil supplies, the United States will immediately break diplomatic relations and either give aid to its moderate allies Egypt, Saudi Arabia,

etc., instead or the United States will take from Lebanon. military action with the 6th and 7th Fleets and Marines to force Israeli withdrawal

Brian W College St

thop Dillard's I

Berry's World



"No, my dear, a 'cluster bomb' is NOT 'like when Johnny Carson tells a series of jokes which don't get laughs.""

The Battalion

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