

actual aggression. This has already been seen in the US raid on Libya, the increased Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinian camps there, the continuation of the war initiated by some factions of Amal against the Palestinian camps, and the reactionary regimes' vicious attacks on progressive forces. To all this aggression has now been added the campaign of political and military threats against Syria.

Britain's breaking relations with Syria is the latest step in this campaign. Not surprisingly, it received immediate approval from the US and Canada who withdrew their ambassadors from Syria; the Israelis were overjoyed. However, the British government soon met disappointment when eleven out of twelve EEC foreign ministers, meeting in Luxembourg on October 27th, rejected all the specific British proposals for common action, such as temporary withdrawal of their ambassadors from Damascus, and restricting the operation of Syrian Arab Airlines in Europe. Then, after increased US and British pressure, the EEC foreign ministers met in London on November 10th, to discuss British proposals for sanctions against Syria. They agreed to some measures, including a ban on arms sales, suspension of visits by high-level officials, a review of the activities of Syria's diplomatic missions, and tighter surveillance of the operation of Syrian Arab Airlines. Greece was the only EEC member to refuse to endorse these sanctions, affirming its rejection of the whole case against Syria. The sanctions were viewed as symbolic, without much

impact on Syria. Obviously, the EEC members agreed to them mainly to show solidarity with Britain and to avoid causing embarrassment.

The US, for its part, followed up with much stronger measures. On November 14th, the US declared an

tory. Playing Mrs. Rambo more than 8000 miles from Britain - in the Falklands - or even closer, in Syria, is only Thatcher's dream.

Clearly, the vicious campaign against Syria is ultimately aimed against all the Arab nationalist regimes and move-



embargo on the sale of planes, helicopters, spare parts and electronic equipment to Syria, and imposed trade restrictions. Still, the last scene of the play is not yet over. The comical aspect is that Thatcher, in this day and age, dreams of reviving the old British empire, without realizing that it has been relegated to the trashbin of his-

ments, especially the Palestinian and Lebanese, on the pretext of fighting 'terrorism'. The intensification of this campaign requires that the Arab national liberation movement as a whole strengthen its solidarity in order to face any aggression which the imperialist-Zionist alliance may unleash on the Arab nation.

Jordan's Iron Fist

From Mahatta Prison to Jafre

In August, Jordanian security forces stormed Mahatta central prison in Amman. Their brutality did not stop at destroying and confiscating the meagre, hard earned belongings of the prisoners. In early September, sixty political prisoners from Mahatta, along with 21 from other prisons in Jordan, were transferred to the notorious Jafre prison in the desert - the Jordanian equivalent of the Zionists' Nafha prison in occupied Palestine.

The excuse extended to the public for the August 6th storming of Mahatta was that a hand grenade had been found in the visitors' waiting room. Although the prisoners have no access to the room, this was latched upon as a suitable pretext for the September 2nd transfer which was obviously pre-planned. What makes the pretext even more flimsy is that 21 prisoners from

other prisons were transferred on the same day, without being guilty of any obvious offense.

JAFRE PRISON

Ironically, the Jafre prison is officially named Jafre Reformation and Vocational Training Center. It is notorious for its harsh living conditions. The political prisoners transferred there

consider it the ultimate punishment. The amount of food given is so insufficient that the prisoners live in a constant state of hunger. The quality of the food is so bad that it only aggravates the health of the prisoners, the majority of whom suffer from a variety of health

