

## Chapter VII: Rejection of Peace with Israel/Acknowledgement of the "Peace Process"

### 47. Overview

Peace with Israel is regarded as treason, surrender and submissiveness. It is in this light that the peace treaty of 1979 between Egypt and Israel and the abortive agreement of 1983 between Lebanon and Israel are described. Syrian students learn from their textbooks that their own country has been a champion of the battle against peace with Israel.

The Syrian textbooks explain why Syria entered the peace process and what that peace really means. The expression "peace with Israel" is not to be found anywhere in the Syrian textbooks. Rather, they talk of a vague regional peace, without going into concrete details.

The peace process is perceived as a continuation of the old struggle against Zionism by other means, taking into account the present international circumstances. Sometimes it is called "the battle of peace" [ma'rakat al-salam].

Peace is portrayed as conditional and one-sided. On one hand, its price is to be paid by Israel alone: full withdrawal and full recognition of the Arab rights which remain unspecified. On the other hand, Syria is not called upon to give up any of its principles in return for peace: nothing is said about recognizing the State of Israel and its right to exist within its pre-1967 borders.

### 48. A Champion of the Battle against Peace with Israel since It Means Surrender and Treason

"The Syrian Arab country has rejected all the yielding surrender attempts which aim at the loss of the Arab nation's rights and especially the right of the Palestinian Arab people to liberation and return... We should be alert and watchful of the enemy's deception and cunning and reject any call for peace with it." (Islamic Education, Grade 8, p. 88)

"Revolutionary Syria... has rejected the course of surrender and treacherous negotiation." (Islamic Education, Grade 8, p. 43)

"We should believe that any hand extended for peace with the aggressors is a criminal hand that must be cut off, because that is an open treason against Islam and the Muslims. On this basis we judge the position of the conspiring agent, who violated his nation's will and his religion's instructions, [Egypt's late President] Anwar Sadat, as well as what he did, beginning in the disgraceful and treacherous visit to Israel and ending in his despicable and shameful negotiations." (Islamic Education, Grade 8, p. 88)

"Anwar Sadat signed with the Zionist entity the so-called "Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty"... It called for alleged peace between the Zionist entity, on the one hand, and the Egyptian regime and the Arab countries neighboring the Zionist entity, on the other hand. This is another treacherous step on the road to ending the Arab-Zionist struggle in the interest of the enemy, imposing surrender solutions, relinquishing occupied Arab land and neglecting the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people." (National-Socialist Education, Grade 12, pp. 57-58)

"Some of the weak souls have not benefited from the lessons of history and are still running after the surrender solutions." (Grammar, Dictation and Script, Grade 7, p. 106)

"Let them [our youth] reject all the agreements of submissiveness and surrender which the traitors and the renegades present to them in a favorable light." (Islamic Education, Grade 9, pp. 66-67)

"The [Syrian] President said in a speech of his: Israel threatens the Arabs and says: I want you to comply with what I design and I say: Either my peace which means your surrender or my war which means your destruction." (Grammar, Eloquence and Prosody, Grade 11, p. 166)

"The Arab-Socialist Ba'ath Party... has called for the... rejection of peace, negotiations and recognition of the Zionist entity." (National-Socialist Education, Grade 12, p. 66)

"The Arab-Socialist Ba'ath Party under the leadership of the Fighting Leader Hafez Assad rejected the treacherous conspiracies as well as the surrender treaties and agreements which the Egyptian regime had concluded with the Zionist entity and looked for ways to oppose them." (National-Socialist Education, Grade 12, p. 58)

"Syria... contributed to the establishment of the [Arab] Steadfastness and Opposition Front, following the visit by [Egypt's president Anwar] Sadat to Jerusalem [in Nov. 1977]." (Modern History of the Arabs, Grade 9, p. 160)

"The Syrian-Arab country, under the leadership of the Arab-Socialist Ba'ath Party and its Secretary General the Fighting Comrade Hafez Assad, managed to annul the submissiveness agreement [signed between Israel and Lebanon in May 1983, under the auspices of the US]." (National-Socialist Education, Grade 12, p. 59)

"Israel tries to mislead world public opinion by its acceptance of the negotiation with the Arabs and by its desire for peace, but a peace in its own special sense which means the Arabs' surrender, without [Israel's] implementation of the resolutions of international legality. The Fighting Leader Comrade Hafez Assad described Israel's game regarding the peace process saying: In spite of its claim that it wants peace, Israel is doing the opposite in word and in deed." (National-Socialist Education, Grade 8, p. 107)

"Israel shall not give up its expansionist ambitions and shall not change its mentality of hegemony and expansion. Therefore, we must prepare for the defense of our land and homeland and not to place much hope in the possibilities of peace, because Israel is a state of invasion and aggression. It pursues them rather than pursuing peace." (President Hafez Assad, National-Socialist Education, Grade 8, p. 109)

#### 49. The "Peace Process" is the Continuation of the Struggle against Israel

The "peace process", or as it is sometimes called the "battle of peace", is a code word for pursuing the struggle against the existence of Israel while adapting it to the present international circumstances. Furthermore, by joining the peace process Syria has gained international standing and respect.

"The Arab people of Syria took upon itself the greatest burden in the confrontation and offered great sacrifices in both lives and property for the sake of the Arab nation's honor and dignity. Syria is now conducting a political battle stronger and more ferocious than the armed battle in order to recover the Arabs' rights for the sake of the Arab nation's future and progress... That is the battle of peace." (National-Socialist Education, Grade 9, p. 65)

"The facts of the present phase of our Arab history, especially regarding our confrontation with the Zionist enemy, stress the importance of Arab cooperation, whether in war or in the battle of peace." (National-Socialist Education, Grade 8, p. 53)

"Our nation still continues its struggle against the Zionist invasion, accommodating its circumstances and the recent struggle methods while emphasizing international legality as embodied in the UN resolutions 338, 242, 425 and the exchange of land for peace. Just and comprehensive Peace." (National-Socialist Education, Grade 10, p. 148)

"Liberating the Arab land that Israel has occupied... Establishing just and comprehensive peace that will return the Arabs' right... Supporting the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people for the recovery of its rights and the establishment of its independent state with Jerusalem as its capital." (Goals of the Syrian regime under Hafez Assad, National-Socialist Education, Grade 7, pp. 64-65)

"Syria has gained an international standing, thanks to its leader's wise way and instructions which take inspiration from the interest of Syria and the Arabs, especially regarding the peace process which the Leader Assad described, saying: peace means equal dignity to all." (National-Socialist Education, Grade 7, p. 60)

"Syria has obtained the respect and support of the European states, the Great Powers and the international community because of its position

regarding the peace process, that battle which it [Syria] wages presently with utmost courage and firmness for the recovery of the Arabs' right in return for spreading security and peace in the region." (National-Socialist Education, Grade 8, p. 132)

## 50. Conditional and One-Sided Peace

Full withdrawal and full recognition of the "Arab rights" is the price demanded for peace, without any commitment regarding the recognition of Israel and its right to exist.

"Syria has agreed to enter the peace process in the region in response to the international initiative and on the basis of the implementation of the Security Council resolutions 242, 338, 425 - which stipulate the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Arab lands, and on the basis of the land-for-peace principle. All the developments and events in the region have emphasized that it is impossible to reach a real, just and comprehensive peace in the region without Syria. That is what the Fighting Leader, Comrade Hafez Assad, has often called for, namely, that Syria is heading towards peace provided that it is just and comprehensive, which would return the land and the rights to their owners, remove injustice and put an end to occupation and aggression. This is the peace of the brave which will open the horizons of progress and prosperity for the region." (National-Socialist Education, Grade 9, p. 66)

"[Homework:] Extract from the following statement by the Fighting Leader Comrade Hafez Assad, the importance of achieving the peace which we are pursuing.[The statement:] We want peace indeed. We see and understand that everyone has an interest in that peace. But we also oppose anyone who tries to turn peace into a monopolized interest of his. We oppose him. No one will ever be able to make peace with Syria without Syria's consent, since it holds on to its interests and rights, and first and foremost - its occupied land... We have a right that we cannot relinquish. Giving up any part of the homeland means giving up the [whole] homeland... [It means] submission at the expense of [our] rights, destiny and future." (National-Socialist Education, Grade 9, pp. 68-69)

"We are for peace [which is] in accordance with the UN resolution. It is the peace that accomplishes the return of the land and the return of the usurped rights." (President Hafez Assad, National-Socialist Education, Grade 10, p. 83)