

CIA Plotting

Led to War,

Arafat Says

Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat charged yesterday that the Central Intelligence Agency and Israel were involved in "a conspiracy" that brought on Lebanon's civil war.

Arafat offered no proof for his sweeping accusation, which he made in a televised interview on "Meet the Press" (NBC, WRC). The interview was taped in Beirut and broadcast yesterday.

The charge came as the chairman of the PLO was questioned by American newsmen about whether the 10 months of civil war "between Moslems and Christians" undermines the PLO position that Jews, Moslems and Christians could all live peacefully in a new Palestine state replacing Israel.

Arafat said the recent conflict in Lebanon "is not a confrontation between Moslems and Christians. It is confrontation between national groups and isolationist groups."

When Arafat was pressed on that distinction by Jonathan C. Randal of The Washington Post Foreign Service, a transcript of the interview released in Washington shows, the PLO leader replied in part:

"... There is a conspiracy against the Lebanese people and the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. And, according to my information and analysis, the conspiracy had been planned by the help of imperialistic powers and especially by your CIA and the help of Zionist powers, and especially by ... Israel itself."

When asked if he had "hard proof" of CIA involvement, Arafat replied, "I have many proofs, but I think the time is not suitable to unmask what happened here in Lebanon."

"But definitely," he continued, "after some years, one of the heads of the CIA will write by himself his memories about what he has done in Lebanon. The same thing, the same that he has done in Chile, Angola and the others, and the moment I find it suitable, I will say everything."

Arafat sidestepped saying if he would go to a Geneva conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict as a PLO representative if invited "by the parties concerned."

"If you have this invitation," he said, "I will give you my answer."