



jour-
ney by raising the
awareness of their respective
societies and lobbying their govern-
ments to take strong measures to end the
illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine. Mr.
Ahmad Jaradat, a student active in the University's
Right to Education Campaign, and Mr. Ibrahim Al Ajouli,
representative of the Student Council, also delivered short
speeches to welcome the cyclists and thank them for their
efforts and solidarity. Dr. Ali Dabbagh, originally from Yaffa,
delivered a speech on behalf of the Peace Cycle, in which he
thanked the students for their warm reception. He stated that the
cyclists were an amazing group of people who had strong commit-
ment to peace and justice and had crossed the thousands of kilo-
meters from London to Palestine on bicycles in a show of solidarity
with the Palestinian people and to demand an immediate end to the
Israeli occupation. At the end of his speech Dr. Dabbagh announced
that he was going to donate his bike, "Sahharet El Burt-ann", to be
raffled off at Birzeit University. The proceeds from the raffle will go to
the Student Financial Aid Fund, which provides stipends to students
who are in financial need at Birzeit University. Each of the cyclists
then introduced themselves and explained their reasons for partici-
pating in this long journey, mainly to promote a just peace through
an end to Israeli occupation of the Palestinian lands. The cyclist
hail from various nations including the United States,
Switzerland, United Kingdom, Greece, Ireland, Sweden and
Australia, including several members who are from Arab
origins such as Palestinian, Egyptian, Moroccan and
Yemenite. At the end of the reception, two BZU stu-
dents presented the Peace Cycle with a token gift
of a wooden plaque with an engraving of the
University campus on it and the phrase
"In Appreciation of Your Effort,
Solidarity and Support." ■

