

Editorial

Summing Up the Year 1985

By the time this issue of *Democratic Palestine* reaches you, the year 1985 will be over. What has happened to the Palestinian revolution and the PLO during this year can only be described as serious, if not tragic. The year 1985 witnessed the signing of the Amman accord between King Hussein of Jordan and Yasir Arafat, which marked a turning point in the history of the PLO and the Palestinian revolution, for the following reasons:

One: Arafat's leadership thereby unilaterally took a unique, illegitimate step allowing the Jordanian regime to share in the representation of the Palestinian people. The PLO earned the right of sole, legitimate representation through our people's sacrifices. The deviating leadership has no right to compromise this.

Two: Due to the above, the PLO and the Palestinian revolution, the vanguard of the Arab forces fighting imperialism and Zionism, has concretely split into two trends. The trend of Arafat and his followers is groveling for any kind of solution to the Palestinian cause, even an imperialist solution, and ready to pay any price.

The other trend consists of the eight Palestinian organizations that reject Arafat's line and the Amman accord, and believe that armed struggle against the enemy is the most effective means for the Palestinian masses to achieve their aims.

Three: Arafat's leadership, by signing the Amman accord, has linked itself to the unholy alliance of Arab reaction. This alliance is exerting all efforts to harmonize with imperialism's interests. In order to be accepted by imperialism, this reactionary Arab alliance is trying its best to meet the US conditions.

Four: By entering the Arab reactionary alliance (Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Morocco and Saudi Arabia), Arafat's trend has positioned itself in antagonism to the interests of the Arab masses, and to progressive forces on the regional and international levels, including the socialist countries.

The Amman accord, which split the PLO, has only served the foes of our people, who are trying to capitalize on the difficulties of the Palestinian situation. The Zionist enemy, by

implementing the iron fist policy, is trying to crush the resistance of the Palestinian masses against the occupation. The Zionist enemy has made a secret agreement with Hussein for joint Israeli-Jordanian administration of the West Bank. Appointing Thafer al Masri as mayor of Nablus was a step in that direction.

The Jordanian and Egyptian regimes are pressuring Arafat to accept UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and to recognize 'Israel', in order to legitimize their own recognition and concessions to the Zionist enemy.

Despite Arafat's capitulationist steps, he was treated in the most humiliating manner: The Israelis launched an air strike on the PLO's headquarters in Tunis. British imperialism cancelled the scheduled meeting with the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. The Jordanian regime blamed the Palestinian delegates for the cancellation.

In Lebanon, sectarian forces tried to benefit from the split in the PLO, launching a fierce attack against the Palestinian camps in an effort to disarm the Palestinians.

Revolutionary accomplishments

On the other hand, the year 1985 has witnessed positive developments in the Palestinian struggle:

1. There was a massive escalation of armed struggle against the Zionist occupation. This shows that our people will not give up armed resistance until their rights are fulfilled. It also means that Arafat's policies do not represent the aspirations of the masses. The escalation of military struggle was so effective that the Israeli Defense Minister and other officials declared that the situation has become dangerous, because the Palestinians under occupation have taken the initiative in launching military operations.

King Hussein also sensed what this escalation meant for his schemes against the Palestinian cause. He used this as a card in urging the Israelis to reach an agreement with him, in order to abort this resistance before it expanded to an uncontrollable level.

2. The formation of the Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF) in March was a political response to the right-wing's deviation. The PNSF is intended to achieve the following ends: (a) restoring the PLO to the national line; (b) preserving the PLO's position in the anti-imperialist, anti-Zionist trench; (c) forming a unified national front to represent the Palestinian people until the PLO is restored to the national line.

3. The PNSF recently called on the DFLP and the Palestinian Communist Party to join in a united front to face the right's moves and prevent it from representing the Palestinian people in any conference that discusses the Palestinian question. This call was positively received.

All Palestinian nationalist forces must work to achieve the following tasks on the Palestinian level: (1) blocking US imperialist plans to abort the Palestinian cause; (2) escalating armed struggle against the Israeli occupation of Palestine and other Arab land; (3) mobilizing all Palestinian nationalist organizations, trade unions, associations and personalities for the purpose of abrogating the Amman accord; (4) defeating the Israeli and Jordanian plans in the occupied territories; (5) preserving Palestinian armed struggle in Lebanon. ●

Graphic by Imad Abdel Wahab, exhibited at Soviet Cultural Center.

