

Interview with Comrade Habash

In anticipation of the PFLP's 18th anniversary, comrade George Habash, General Secretary, made an extensive interview with «Al Hadaf» magazine. Below we include some of the most important questions.

How much has been achieved in terms of transforming from a revolutionary democratic organization into a Marxist-Leninist party?

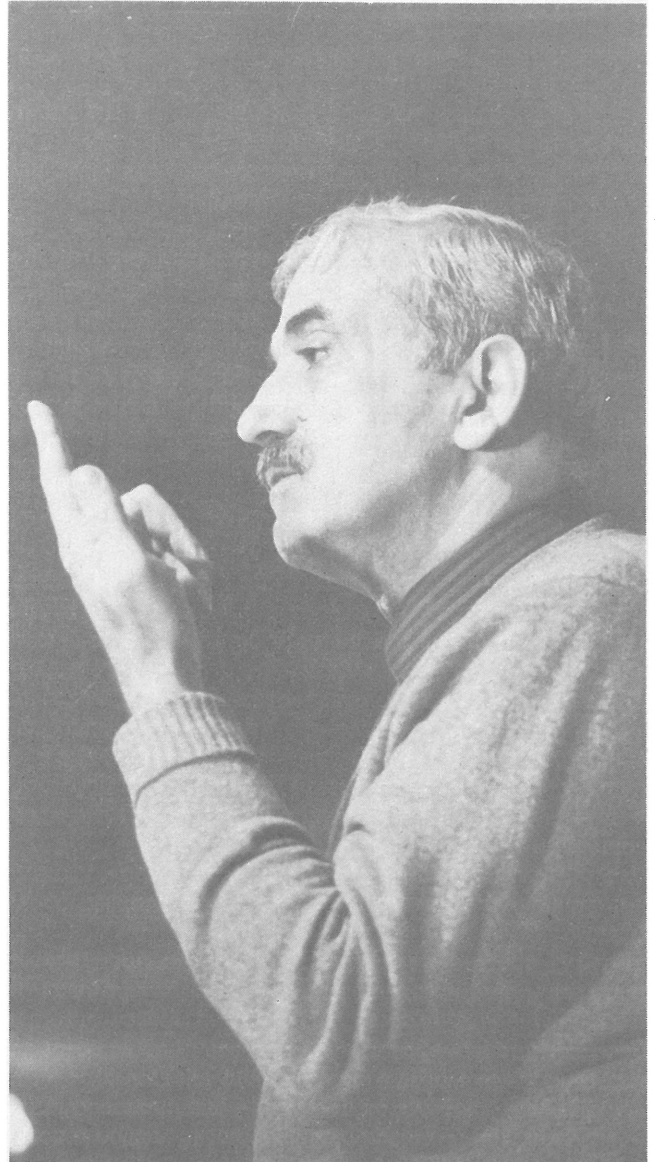
First, allow me to clarify that the PFLP is not the only front that has put forward the slogan of transformation. Transformation from revolutionary democratic positions to that of scientific socialism has become an international phenomenon. Transformation is governed by the following objective and subjective conditions, without which it would be impossible:

First: The transition of capitalism to its highest stage, imperialism, and its dominance on the international level, with all the consequences this entails. The most important consequence, in this respect, is the failure of the local bourgeoisie in the countries where capitalist growth has been retarded, to accomplish the aims of the national democratic revolution. This transfers the task to the revolutionary classes, led by the working class party and ideology.

Second: The victory of the great, socialist October Revolution, and the rise of the Soviet Union as a force supportive to national liberation movements in the backward countries. Speaking of transformation makes us remember Lenin's greatness and clear vision. He was the first to give sufficient attention to the liberation movement of the people of the East. Lenin considered this movement as a main contributor to the world revolutionary movement, and valued its role in the struggle against imperialism and reaction. Lenin even predicted that the national liberation struggle of the oppressed peoples would assume a socialist perspective. He creatively developed the slogan «Workers of all countries, unite» into «Workers of all countries and oppressed peoples, unite.» The experience of revolutions in the backward countries, especially where a revolutionary democratic movement transformed into a communist workers' movement, proves that this process can only occur in the era of transition to socialism, as begun by the October Revolution.

Third: The nature of the petit bourgeoisie as a class which vacillates between capital and wage labor. The petit bourgeoisie aspires to ownership and the position of the bourgeoisie. On the other hand, part of the petit bourgeoisie shares the conditions of the masses of the workers and poor peasants. This particularity is the objective basis of the transformation process. There is no strategic perspective for an independent movement of the petit bourgeoisie. Rather, the petit bourgeoisie has two options: either to follow the bourgeoisie or to transform to the position of the working class, if subjective conditions permit this.

Fourth: The subjective factor needed for complete transformation. Objective conditions, without the subjective factor, cannot go into effect. Also, the subjective factor, without the objective conditions, will fall short. The objective factors needed for the transformation process have existed for many years on the international level. What is needed for the completion of this process is the subjective factor, i.e., the vanguard



organization. If this vanguard does not exist from the beginning, there must be elements whose experience leads them to feel that Marxism-Leninism is the only scientific theory which provides answers to the challenges and obstacles facing the revolution. These elements would adopt Marxist-Leninist theory and begin a persistent struggle to complete the transformation process.

These are the subjective and objective conditions. They are universal, not only for this or that country. These factors have special qualities. They may take different forms, depending on the conditions, the level of social development, and the nature of the revolutionary process in the specific country. ►