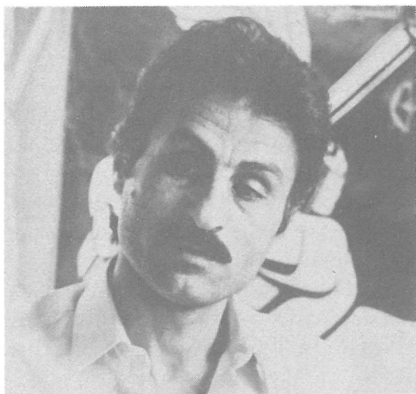


Palestinian Armed Struggle Today

In anticipation of the PFLP's 18th anniversary, we asked comrade Abu Ahmad Fuad, Politbureau member in charge of the military department, to address a series of questions related to the current conditions for Palestinian armed struggle.



In retrospect, can you evaluate the Palestinian role, and especially that of the PFLP, in the Lebanese National Resistance to Israeli occupation?

It is known to all Lebanese nationalist forces that almost all the Palestinian resistance factions have participated effectively in fighting the Zionist enemy when its troops were in the mountains, Beirut and the South of Lebanon. All factions of the Palestinian resistance participated with an effort that cannot be denied by any friendly force. In particular, what we know very precisely is our effectiveness as the Popular Front, alongside all the factions of the Lebanese National Resistance Front (LNRF), in upgrading our ability to attack the Zionist enemy and its agents in Lebanon. In fighting against the Zionist enemy, we relied on the following steps:

First, we extended all possible requirements and support to all the factions of the LNRF. Second, we participated side-by-side with them in military operations in the different areas of Lebanon. A number of operations were carried out jointly with the militants of the Amal movement, Hezbollah, the Lebanese Communist Party and other factions of the LNRF.

We know that a great responsibility rests on our shoulders. We consider this part of our duty towards our people and the masses, Lebanese and Palestinian. No one can deny our right to participate in defending Lebanon and liberating it from the Zionist occupation and its agents. There are several examples of our actions in this field, and a number of comrades were martyred while confronting the Zionist enemy in the South or other areas that were occupied until the Zionist enemy was forced to withdraw. We still have our fighting role, as the PFLP and jointly with Lebanese nationalist factions.

When the LNRF was initiated, we took a decision not to claim responsibility for the operations we carried out, either as the Popular Front or the Palestinian resistance. Any announcement of such operations would be by the LNRF. But, unfortunately, some factions of the LNRF allege that the forces of the Palestinian revolution had no role in fighting the Zionist occupation forces in Lebanon. We say to these authoritative

persons who make such allegations from time to time, that they themselves know the role of the Palestinian resistance in confronting the Zionist enemy. All the cadres and fighters of the LNRF acknowledge the effectiveness of the Palestinian revolution in silently fighting the Zionist enemy without claiming these attacks.

What are the difficulties facing the Palestinian armed struggle in Lebanon today, and how does the PFLP propose to solve these? What does it mean that forces with whom we allied in the LNRF now work to hinder the Palestinian struggle?

There is no doubt that the difficulties have increased. The enemy has established new barriers and widened the so-called security zone. Now there is a part of this zone densely occupied by Israeli forces, another part with UN emergency troops, and another filled with the forces of the agent Lahd. In practical terms, fighting units now have to penetrate at least two barriers to reach the Zionist occupation forces and attack them. I do not mean by this that Lahd's forces and those of the Zionist enemy are separate. At many points, they are present jointly, and many LNRF operations have targeted Lahd's forces and the Zionist enemy's forces at the same time. It has been proven that the casualties of these operations were from both.

These obstacles and difficulties affect the LNRF to a certain extent from the military angle. However, we cannot say that overall effectiveness has decreased. Rather, qualitative operations have been carried out since the enemy has taken these new security measures in the South. There were large heroic operations that are a source of pride to all Arab nationalists. In addition, there is the mass struggle in the occupied zone. Of course, we were anticipating that the military effectiveness would be higher than it is.

Currently, all the Lebanese and Palestinian nationalist factions are making certain arrangements to overcome these difficulties and obstacles. The correct method of confronting the occupation forces and those of Lahd is guerrilla warfare and inflicting daily losses in the enemy's ranks. This would lead to an accumulation whereby the fighting forces would be larger and operations spread more widely. This would inevitably lead to the evacuation of the occupation forces from Lebanon.

We believe that all military methods must be used against the enemy, starting from small fighting units, to larger groups and complex operations, and then rocket and tank attacks when this is useful and effective against the enemy. Experience has proven that the best method is mobilizing the masses, recruiting and arming them, then preparing the right conditions for them to launch military attacks. Fighting against the Zionist enemy must become the task of all the masses and not only the vanguards. To a certain extent we can say that the past period proved that most of the Lebanese and Palestinian