

masses in Lebanon participated in and contributed to confronting the enemy with all methods and means.

As for the obstacles and difficulties put by some (allied) forces to prevent the Palestinian revolution from exercising its right to fight the Zionist enemy, we will try to overcome and deal with this through continued dialogue. We will prove to these forces that the task of liberating South Lebanon is a joint responsibility and the responsibility of all Arabs. No single force should stand as an obstacle to any other nationalist force, Palestinian or otherwise, which aims at effectively contributing to the task of liberation. We do not accept any excuse on the part of any force that is creating obstacles for the Palestinians' struggle against the occupation.

How has the formation of the Palestine National Salvation Front affected the military struggle?

The National Salvation Front was established to confront deviation and the rightist leadership of the PLO. One of its main tasks, in responding to the deviating right, is to step up military attacks against the Zionist enemy in occupied Palestine and Lebanon. However, the joint military arrangements between the factions of the Salvation Front have not yet been completed. Therefore, we cannot yet judge the Salvation Front in terms of joint military work.

However, each faction of the Salvation Front is carrying out military activities in the occupied homeland and southern Lebanon. The Salvation Front has drawn up a project for joint military arrangements that we hope will be implemented, uniting the military forces of all factions of the Salvation Front outside the occupied homeland, and upgrading coordination between them in Palestine. These matters are now being discussed by the Salvation Front leadership. We have great hopes for the program decided on by the Salvation Front in this field, as well as for the other programs proposed by ourselves and other factions to arrive at the best possible forms for stepping up the joint effectiveness of the Salvation Front in Lebanon and the occupied land.

The PFLP has a policy of cooperation on the ground with nationalist Palestinians who are still affiliated with Fatah's Central Committee. How do you evaluate this cooperation, especially in terms of the military struggle?

In our view, any cooperation between all the factions, including those outside the Salvation Front, with the exception of Arafat's group, would follow a path hostile to Arafat's deviating policies. These factions have taken a clear position against the Amman accord, the Cairo statement and the moves of Arafat and his central committee. This provides common ground for cooperation, since these factions have an effective military and political role against the Zionist enemy in occupied Palestine and outside. These forces also play an effective role against the liquidationist policies that Arafat and his central committee are trying to implement unilaterally. Therefore, we must always look for points of mutual agreement and reinforce them so that all forces unite against the Zionist-imperialist plans for the region. All forces must unite to face the deviationist trend, and work for annulment of the Amman accord and all the isolationist and liquidationist policies.

Can you evaluate the efforts that succeeded in warding off the expected internal strife in the Saida

area, and our relations with the Nasserite Organization there?

The PFLP has a firm, clear position on how to deal with contradictions that arise among the factions of the Palestinian resistance in Lebanon on the one hand, and between the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese nationalist forces on the other. Therefore, we put forward a proposal for organizing the situation in the camps in Lebanon, especially those in Beirut and the South. The essence of this proposal is preventing internal Palestinian fighting or any battle between Palestinians and Lebanese nationalist forces. To this end, we proposed practical measures in order to attain our expectations of uniting the masses in Lebanon to confront the Zionist enemy, and the danger of deviation and the practices of the right-wing PLO leadership. The PFLP proposed forming mass committees and local leaderships for the camps. These would assume the tasks of solving social problems and meeting the needs of our masses in the camps. Such committees were formed and shouldered their tasks and executed the decisions of the Salvation Front. This resulted in avoiding problems that, at certain times, might have escalated to fighting in the camps.

At one point, it was expected that the Palestinian right-wing would create conflicts inside Ain al Hilweh camp in particular. However, through certain guidelines and responsible methods put forward by the Salvation Front in the camp, we were able to prevent such fighting. In addition, we were able to contain any individual incident that might have escalated. This experiment was put to several tests which proved that it was the best method for solving differences and contradictions in the nationalist ranks. This is especially true in view of the fact that our masses in the camps are against deviation and liquidation. Therefore we feel that the liquidationist trend failed to penetrate our masses in the camps of Lebanon.

As for our relations with the Nasserite Organization led by Mustafa Saad, they have our deepest appreciation. We are proud of our positive relations with this organization, which are being reinforced day by day. We feel this organization's consciousness of the Palestinian revolution and masses. We also know their great willingness to protect and support the continuation of the revolution and armed struggle. We are fighting side-by-side with our brothers and comrades of the Nasserite Organization against Lahd's forces and the Zionist enemy. Our relationship with the Nasserite Organization is a historical one, determined by common destiny. There is no problem between us. Rather there are positive, militant relations with a high degree of coordination. This organization has made many sacrifices and given many martyrs to protect Saida and the line of liberating the occupied part of Lebanon.

How has the lack of Palestinian national unity affected the liberation struggle militarily? How has the PFLP sought to deal with this problem?

Since 1967, we in the PFLP have advocated the importance of unifying the military efforts of the Palestinian revolution. We are fully convinced that the aim of liberation can only be accomplished through uniting all potentials, especially in the military field. Over the years, we have presented several proposals for unifying the military forces of the different organizations of the revolution. We have struggled enthusiastically to achieve this aim, but we were always faced with obstacles, mainly those erected by the then dominating leadership for its own political reasons, the aims of which have since become very clear. At the time, we realized that uniting the Palestinian