

forces would enable the revolution's leadership to recruit all the Palestinian militants and the masses of our people who are capable of practicing their militant duties. The rightist leadership had sufficient resources at its disposal to recruit tens of thousands of our people to fight the liberation battle.

Yet time passed; the rightist leadership talked about finding a solution to this matter, but it was never serious about seeking a true unification of the forces of the Palestinian revolution. We have suffered a great deal from this dispersion in the military field, since all the PLO's military potentials were in the hands of the right; nothing was allotted to the PFLP. The fighters of the PFLP did not receive the necessary help or provisions. What did exist was a form of *ad hoc* coordination on the leadership level in the time of battle, but this was not the expression of a real unity of the Palestinian revolution. Many battles had negative results due to the lack of a united leadership with a single tool and plan. There is no doubt that this issue is completely linked with the political differences. Yet even when there was agreement on the main political issues, the rightist leadership showed no enthusiasm about uniting the military forces on the basis proposed by the PFLP and other revolutionary democratic forces. The rightist leadership wanted all these factions to be under its command. They were not prepared to give these organizations the right to organizational independence. There were thus many obstacles facing the unity of the forces of the Palestinian revolution.

In addition, there is the role of some of the Arab regimes in preventing the unity of the Palestinian revolution, because of what such a united revolution would constitute in terms of militant, political and fighting ability. The main concern of these regimes has been to abort the revolution, so that it will not become the revolution of all the Palestinian masses, effective and influential on all levels. The right-wing has achieved some of the reactionary regimes' goals in this field.

What applies to unity in the military field applies to unity in the social, political and other fields of interest to our masses inside and outside our land. Among these issues is the Palestinian National Front in the occupied territories which was blocked by the Palestinian right. After all the differences, problems and divisions that have occurred in the Palestinian arena, this slogan of uniting the forces of the revolution must be raised by all democratic and nationalist Palestinian forces, for such unity is essential for confronting the tremendous conspiracy against our people, revolution and cause. This slogan is raised by the PFLP and we seek to achieve it via the Salvation Front and by uniting the forces opposed to the policies of deviation and liquidation.

It is true that this is a very complex and difficult matter which needs a lot of time. Nevertheless, we must start with practical steps. We were always enthusiastic about finding the best platform for unity between the revolutionary democratic forces in the Palestinian arena. We have been through an experience with our comrades in the Democratic Front. This failed, but that does not mean that we stop at that point. Rather we must examine our mistakes and extract the lessons in order to correct any shortcomings or mistakes that have occurred. We must draw up the correct line and implement it in the best possible form to unite the Palestinian arena on a clear political line hostile to imperialism, Zionism and the deviationist and liquidationist solutions. Once we agree on a political platform, we can push for uniting our military forces, since no one faction on its own can defeat the enemy. What is needed is a united plan and leadership. This matter requires a lot of effort, mainly from us as the PFLP. We believe in uniting the forces of the

Palestinian revolution, for this will give great benefits and positive results on the path of liberation and continuing the revolution until our people achieve their goals.

What does Arafat's November statement in Cairo, about limiting the armed struggle, mean for the Palestinian armed resistance as a whole?

We don't evaluate the Cairo statement only in terms of its wording. Rather we see its content which aims to give a card to US imperialism and Mubarak's regime, based on their demand that Arafat denounce armed struggle. In the terminology of US imperialism and its allies, any armed struggle for liberation and ending occupation, injustice and oppression, is illegal - terrorism. These forces view the Palestinian resistance as a form of terrorism. Therefore Arafat was called upon to announce this stand. Thus, we consider that this declaration will eventually lead the rightist leadership to hand over the card of armed struggle to the reactionary regimes and US imperialism, in order to pave the way for dialogue with the US, or direct negotiations with the Zionist enemy.

The PFLP and the Salvation Front have issued statements clarifying our position on this declaration. In practice, this declaration has its effects on some of the nationalist elements who oppose the line of deviation but are still (organizationally) affiliated to the rightist leadership. It didn't in any way effect the other forces in the Palestinian resistance. As a matter of fact, the Palestinian revolution's forces in Lebanon continue to carry out their struggle, side-by-side with Lebanese nationalist forces. The daily struggle of our masses in the occupied land is continuing and increasing.

In our opinion, the nationalist fighting elements that are still under the command of Fatah's Central Committee, will not accept the cancellation of armed struggle. Rather they will continue to struggle against the Zionist enemy, despite the positions of Arafat and his Central Committee. The only effect of the declaration on the militants under the command of Fatah's Central Committee in the occupied land, will be reduction of the support they get from this leadership.

We believe that the masses in the occupied land will reject this declaration. The Palestinian arena will witness an escalation of military activities. The reactionary forces that built their hopes on the Cairo declaration, will find that it only represents the one who made it and his followers. Our masses will tell everyone heading for surrender, that this attempt will fail in the face of their steadfastness.

What military efforts and preparations is the PFLP making to support the ongoing mass struggle in occupied Palestine?

The PFLP considers the occupied land as the primary arena for confrontation with the Zionist enemy. Therefore the main effort of the Politbureau and the military department is directed toward this arena, aimed at stepping up our effectiveness in all fields, especially military attacks. These efforts aim at making our military activities in the occupied land continuous and at the optimal level.

In many cases, our comrades launch operations without our claiming them; there are many reasons for this. In the near future, we will progress more in this field and our military ability will improve in the occupied land. The Front's leadership outside is wasting no time in upgrading our struggle in all fields in the occupied land. This is being sensed by our masses in the occupied land as well as outside.