

Editorial

Let No One Fall into an Enemy Trap

In the last few weeks, rumors, articles, declarations and propaganda about expected fighting in West Beirut have spread rapidly. This news reminded us of the atmosphere that preceded the Amal Movement's unholy war against the Palestinian camps of Beirut last summer. The main rationale for the new war, according to those who predicted, is the necessity of «cleaning» West Beirut of «armed gangs», aborting Arafat's efforts to ignite violence, and providing the prerequisites for national security.

In the light of what is going on, the PFLP would like to again stress the following basic points:

One: The nationalist and progressive Palestinian organizations continue to support the Lebanese nationalist forces in their efforts to control the security situation in West Beirut. We place all our resources at their disposal in order to uproot any group that tries to endanger the security of the Lebanese masses and nationalist forces.

Two: The nationalist and progressive Palestinian organizations continue to support efforts to solve the Lebanese crisis on a national democratic basis, preserving the unity, independence, Arab identity and democratic development of Lebanon.

Three: The nationalist and progressive Palestinian organizations, that signed and abided by the Damascus agreement to end the camp war, have tried throughout the previous months to reorganize Palestinian-Lebanese nationalist relations on a clearer and stronger basis. We have persisted in these efforts despite Amal's continued violations of the Damascus agreement. In these efforts, the Palestinian nationalist and progressive forces are motivated by a great feeling of responsibility for consolidating the Syrian-Lebanese-Palestinian nationalist alliance.

Distinguishing between principled and tactical changes

The propaganda campaign about «cleaning» West Beirut,

runs parallel to the talks in Damascus, between the various Lebanese leaders, to find a solution to the Lebanese crisis and end more than ten years of civil war. The fact that the Lebanese Forces, led by Elie Hobeika, have entered into drafting plans for reforming the sectarian system, does indeed signal a retreat for the fascist program. However, this retreat, like Hobeika's advocating the Syrian option, does not mark a change in principle for the fascists. It is rather a tactical move designed to buy time in the context of the current balance of forces which rules out imposition of the fascists' program.

Thus, we warn that the Lebanese Forces are engaging in tactical maneuvers, aimed at aborting the achievements of the Syrian-Lebanese-Palestinian nationalist alliance. The fascists, moreover, are secretly retaining their own forces and program, as well as their option of returning to alliance with Zionism, if they later see the chance to block democratic reform in Lebanon. These facts should be kept in mind when evaluating the motives and anticipated results of the talked-about «clean-up» in nationalist West Beirut and the Palestinian camps.

Needless to say, striking the Palestinian nationalist armed presence in Lebanon remains to be one of the main aims of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary alliance, as a prelude to crushing the Palestinian revolution all together. The results of weakening Palestinian armed presence in Lebanon will not be limited to the Palestinian arena. We are deeply convinced that this would directly and negatively affect the Lebanese nationalist and progressive forces, as well as all contingents of the Arab national liberation movement. Proceeding from this, we stress our legitimate right to defend our masses and revolution. At the same time, we warn all nationalist forces from falling into an enemy trap.

Two Ways to Deal with the Imperialist and Zionist Enemy

At a time when imperialism and Zionism have escalated their aggressiveness against the Arab people, the two ways to deal with the imperialist and Zionist enemy emerge with increasing clarity. One is the way of Arab reaction, together with the right-wing PLO leadership headed by Yasir Arafat. This path leads to offering concession after concession to imperialism, every time the enemy escalates its aggression.

In stark contrast, there is the way of the masses and the progressive and patriotic forces which insist on confronting imperialist and Zionist aggression. This means responding to aggression by striking imperialism's interests and confronting it in the way it deserves.

On September 26th, Yasir Arafat, in an interview with *Al Jumhuriyah* newspaper (Cairo), called for negotiations between the PLO and 'Israel' on the basis of «land in exchange for peace» as mentioned in the Amman accord of February of this year. In the same interview, he praised Thatcher's decision to meet

with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. In another interview with the Saudi newspaper *Shark al Awsat* (Paris), Arafat says that Thatcher's decision gave a boost to the Amman accord.

On September 27th, King Hussein made a speech at the UN General Assembly, clearly indicating the extent

to which Arab reaction places its hopes on US imperialism. He said that after the signing of the Amman accord between the PLO and Jordan, the two began contacting many of the major capitals (imperialist capitals) in order to revive the peace process, in light of the special relations binding the US and 'Israel' - the