

Interview with Comrade Abu Ali Mustafa

Early in October, Comrade Abu Ali Mustafa, Deputy General Secretary of the PFLP, was interviewed by a delegation of the most widely known Japanese newspapers and television networks. Comrade Abu Ali answered questions on recent developments in the region and explained the PFLP's position on a number of issues. The following are excerpts from the interview.

On Mrs. Thatcher's visit and her last initiative in the region, Abu Ali commented: «We consider that Mrs. Thatcher's initiative comes in the context of the US plans. She confirmed this in her statement on arriving at Cairo airport - 'We support the US concept for resolving the Middle East crisis.' This means the denial of Palestinian national rights at the same time lending support to the Reagan plan. On the other hand, the British government is not exactly a suitable choice for the providing of a patriotic solution for the Palestinian cause since it is held primarily and historically responsible for the catastrophe of the Palestinian people. It was the British government which issued the Balfour Declaration in 1917 and supported Zionist immigration to Palestine at the expense of the Palestinian people. When Thatcher visited a Palestinian camp on the outskirts of Amman, a Palestinian woman of al Baqa'a camp asked her: 'Do you know, Mrs. Thatcher, why we are here in this miserable camp?' She shook her head questioningly. The Palestinian woman said: 'Britain is the cause of our expulsion from Palestine...'»

Our masses are our weapons

In response to a question concerning the weapons we possess to confront liquidation solutions, comrade Abu Ali replied: «We have a people that believes in its national cause; a people that has been resisting occupation since 1937; this is one of our most important strengths. In addition to this, we possess clarity of political view with regard to our national cause in the conflict with Zionism and imperialism. Moreover, we rely on our alliances with Arab national and progressive forces as well as those with our international allies, first and foremost of which are the socialist countries, especially the Soviet Union. As for confrontation, it takes on different forms: military, political and on the mass level.



We are determined to continue our struggle till the achievement of our national program.

Cancelling the Amman accord

Regarding the Amman accord Abu Ali said: «The Amman accord, in its essence, is a program which is the antithesis of the Palestinian national program and the Arab summit resolutions - both of which consider the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. At the same time, the Amman accord paves the way for consolidation of American influence on the way to a second Camp David in the region. We, therefore, consider this accord to be a distinctive turning point as well as being a deviation from the trend of Palestinian national struggle. In short, our policy is to work to cancel this accord in cooperation with our local, national and international allies.

National unity

With regard to the unity of the PLO comrade Abu Ali continued: «Our endeavors to restore unity among the ranks of the PLO is based on the necessity of adhering to the legitimate PNC resolutions, especially those of the 16th session in Algiers. For us, abiding by this

program constitutes the basis for restoring PLO unity...»

Land in exchange for peace results in a new Camp David

In response to a question on the idea of land in exchange for peace, Abu Ali says: «This idea stemmed originally from Sadat's propositions, ultimately ending at Camp David, where Sadat made all the concessions concerning the Palestinian national cause.» He added: «'Israel' is aware that this formula does not allow for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Then again the US could interpret it to mean peace in exchange for autonomy or in exchange for a confederation with Jordan, but by no means will it lead to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. This is the essence of the matter for us because we are a people who have the right to establish an independent Palestinian state. The danger of this 'peace for land' formula lies in the fact that it is the antithesis of the Palestinian national program and a capitulation to the US and Zionist plans.»

The international conference

On the Soviet position and its call for an international conference, Abu Ali