

Ibrahim Dakak, Secretary of the Engineers Union:

«It is better not to hurry in implementing this idea. I am not against it in principle, but I would prefer to wait lest the enemies make use of this conference. I believe that the Amman accord is facing a deadlock, so why not wait until it is in this deadlock?»

Mahmoud Khatib, Chief editor of «Al Mithaq» newspaper, Jerusalem:

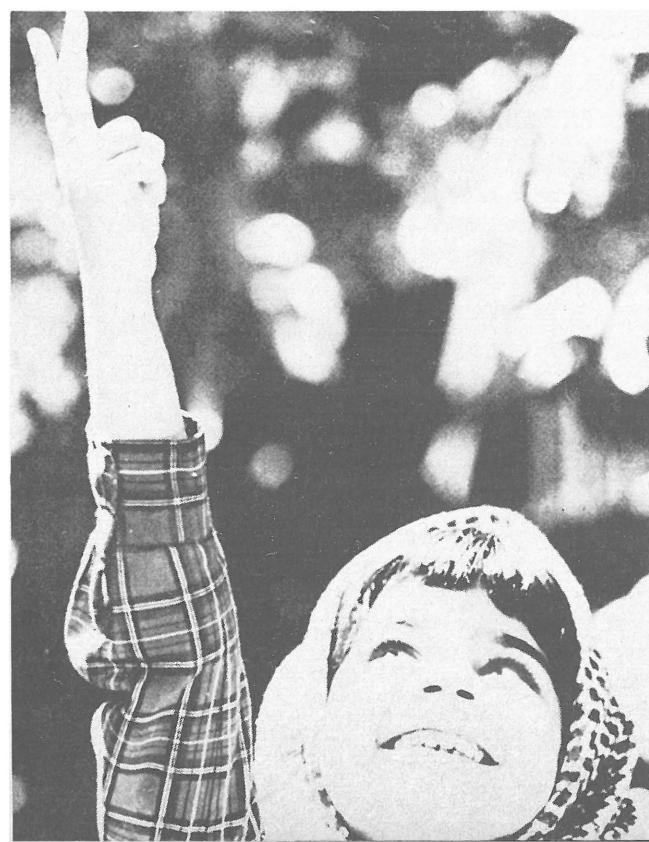
«It is impossible for any nationalist who is concerned about the inalienable rights of our people, to object this idea. It is a qualitative new step towards effectively confronting the line of deviation, squander and capitulation...Such a conference will bring together all the Palestinian nationalist capabilities. It will declare publicly that the line of deviation absolutely does not represent the will of the Palestinian people...We have to uphold this idea and implement it. It is important to provide certain prerequisites to make this idea a success.»

Mahmoud Abu Lybda, journalist for «Al Mithaq» newspaper, Jerusalem:

«The idea of convening a Palestinian people's conference, composed of all nationalist organizations, forces and personalities opposed to the line of deviation and squander, is a correct and pioneering idea.»

Bashir Barghouthi, Chief editor of «Al Talia» newspaper, Jerusalem, and Secretary General of the Palestinian Communist Party:

«I welcome any effort provided that it is agreed upon by the broadest Palestinian nationalist circles; any effort which aims to abrogate the Amman accord and reunify the PLO on a nationalist, anti-imperialist basis. I think that the common denominator must be abrogation of the Amman accord. To put any other conditions would isolate many forces...There are Palestinian forces in Kuwait, Jordan, Syria and other countries, who are ready to reunify the PLO and who are concerned to free the PLO from its crisis. I think it is necessary to neutralize these forces by allowing them to participate in the people's conference.»



Other persons interviewed include:

- Fuad Qassis
- Mohamad Naameh, lawyer
- Salah Bustani
- Musa Hujair
- Sameiha Khalil, Family Welfare Society Ramallah,

Palestinian Unionists

Yahya Yakhlef, Secretary General of the General Union of Palestinian Writers and Journalists

«It is becoming most necessary to conduct a broad dialogue among all nationalist forces, organizations and personalities... It is important to hear the Palestinian masses' opinion. This necessitates the formation of preparatory committees to contact the Palestinian masses in the occupied territories and in the diaspora...This is the correct beginning for the people's conference. All forces must be invited. The main task is to preserve the achievements of the Palestinian people and to find the best way to abrogate the Amman accord.»

Jamil Hilal, member of the General Secretariat of the General Union of Palestinian Writers and Journalists

«It is necessary for all Palestinian democratic and nationalist forces, institutions and personalities to agree on a common nationalist program. This program will guarantee the mobilization of the broadest possible sectors and forces to abrogate the Amman accord and reunify the PLO. This unity should be based on a clear position against imperialism, Zionism and reaction; it should be based on a position against all projects aiming to liquidate the national rights of the Palestinian people. In order to abrogate the Amman accord, it is necessary to mobilize the broadest sectors of the Palestinian people, particularly the influential forces in the places where there are large Palestinian communities. Their participation should be guaranteed. Consultations and dialogue shall lead to the best organizational framework.»

Fuad Abdullah Yousef, member of the General Secretariat of the General Union of Palestinian Workers

«There is no doubt that the idea of convening a Palestinian people's conference is very important due to the current critical situation of the Palestinian revolution, particularly after the signing of the Amman accord between Hussein and Arafat...It is important to choose the right slogan for this conference. This will enable the broadest sector of nationalist forces, institutions and personalities to participate in the conference. I think that the correct slogan is abrogation of the Amman accord and unifying the PLO on a nationalist line against imperialism, Zionism and reaction...»

Omar Saadeh, member of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society Committee in Syria, and editor-in-chief of «Balsam» published by the PRCS

«I support the idea of convening a people's conference that includes all Palestinian nationalists. The common denominator for the conference should be rejection of the Amman accord and reunification of the PLO on a militant nationalist basis. This will enable the PLO to resume its role as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.» ●