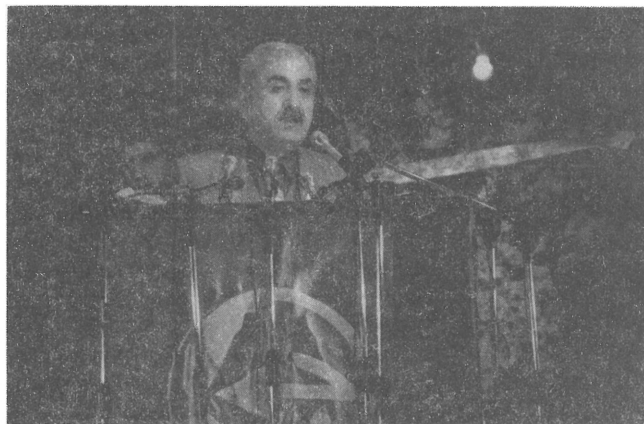


PFLP's 18th Anniversary Celebrations

The celebration of the PFLP's 18th anniversary was far more than a central rally. For example, in the camps surrounding Damascus, it meant two weeks of events open to the public: a handicrafts exhibition organized by the Women's Bureau; three nights of music and folkdancing; an art exhibition including graphics, posters and children's drawings; a march to commemorate the martyrs; receptions and seminars. There was an exhibition of Palestinian art in the Soviet Cultural Center in Damascus, and an evening to honor the comrades who were liberated from the Zionist jails. In addition, celebrations were held in other camps in Syria and Lebanon, and among Palestinian communities in other countries.

The central rally was held in Yarmouk camp on December 13th. Speakers included PNC President Khalid Fahoum; Said Salem of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party; Ahmad Durgham, member of the Regional Leadership of the Arab Socialist Baath Party (Syria); and George Hawi, General Secretary of the Lebanese Communist Party. George Habash, General Secretary of the PFLP, delivered the main speech which is printed below.



Mass Rally Comrade Habash Speaks

Comrade George Habash opened his address by greeting every family that has given a son or daughter for Palestine. He greeted the steadfast prisoners in the Zionist jails and all the Palestinian masses in the occupied homeland, the masses in the camps of Beirut and all of Lebanon, and the Palestinian people everywhere. He also saluted the Lebanese National Resistance Front and the Lebanese masses, the masses of Egypt and Suleiman Khater, hero of the Sinai. He saluted the Arab nationalist regimes, the national liberation movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and the Soviet Union, the faithful friend of the Palestinian people, and all the forces of peace, progress and socialism. He then continued, as follows:

Comrades, 1985 has been the most difficult year for our contemporary revolution. I say this after carefully reviewing the revolution's experience

from 1965 until 1985. You might ask why: Is it more difficult than 1970-71, or more difficult than 1982? Yes, this year was more difficult than all these years. In previous years, our revolution consolidated and successfully confronted the Zionist and imperialist attacks. This year, though, there was a collapse within the PLO and the Palestinian revolution. The deviating, dominating, rightist leadership of the PLO signed the February 11th accord in Amman. What is the meaning of this accord? Literally, it means adopting not only the US solution for the Palestinian cause, but the Zionist one as well. You may wonder how this can be...

Before the founding of the current revolution, Zionism and imperialism worked on the basis of completely erasing the Palestinian cause. Then, armed struggle started and our people gave tens of thousands of martyrs. Our people struggled steadfastly for almost

twenty years. Resolutions were adopted in the UN by the whole world, except for 'Israel' and the US, calling for solving the Palestinian cause on the basis of establishing a Palestinian state. Of course, the US and 'Israel' did not recognize these resolutions, but they could not go on saying that there was no such thing as the Palestinian cause. Instead they began saying that there is a Palestinian question that needs to be solved via the 'Jordanian option'. At least, that's how Reagan and Peres refer to it. They mean that the Palestinian cause is to be solved by granting self-rule in the framework of the Jordanian state. Now looking at the Amman accord, it means literally to adopt this Zionist and US version of solving the Palestinian cause.

If any of you are thinking that this agreement is like any other agreement, and that the Palestinian revolution has passed through several phases and signed many agreements over the past