

Editorial

Whenever any progressive or patriotic Arab was asked about the political future of the region, he would have thought of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and its role in shaping that future. Whenever any progressive or patriotic Arab was reminded of the political setbacks suffered by the Arab progressive movement, he would have mentioned that glimpse of light which shines from Aden in the south of the Arab world. He would say: «That candle has enough momentum to illuminate the Arab world.»

All progressives, Arab or not, were deeply hurt by the events that erupted in Aden on January 13th. This is not only because of the loss of human lives, innocent people and dear comrades. Nor is it only because of the heavy destruction. It is most importantly because of the harm done to what Democratic Yemen symbolizes - the example it should give to all progressive factions of the Arab national liberation movement.

Everyone in the world knows how meagre the natural resources of Democratic Yemen are. Everyone knows that what was built in Democratic Yemen was dearly paid for in blood, labor and tears.

We were aware of the difficulties and dangers facing Democratic Yemen. We have thus exerted all possible efforts to help the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) to overcome its difficulties. That is why Comrade George Habash, General Secretary of the PFLP, spent about a month in Aden at the time of the YSP congress in October. And that is why we did not allow ourselves to rest before seeing the congress convened. It is worth mentioning that the congress could not have been held without the cooperation and good will of all the Yemeni leaders and party members. Their good will stemmed from awareness of their responsibilities towards their country and the whole

Arab world. They were moreover aware that there were dangers to the country, emanating both from the inside (counter-revolutionary forces and representatives of the former landlords) and from the outside (the regimes of Saudi Arabia, Oman and North Yemen).

The fighting that began on January 13th presented a golden opportunity for the enemies of Democratic Yemen, to try to implement their counterrevolutionary plans under 'dovish' pretexts, like sending peace troops to enforce a ceasefire or separate the fighting groups.

We therefore declare our position on what happened as follows:

One: We strongly back the YSP and call for preserving its unity.

Two: We strongly back Democratic Yemen and call for preserving its unity, sovereignty and independence.

Three: We condemn the fighting and its initiation.

Four: We warn all external forces not to try to exploit what has happened in order to intervene in Democratic Yemen's internal affairs.

Five: We are ready to place our resources at the service of the YSP in order to rebuild what has been destroyed. We are hopeful that the country will avoid another such experience in the future, for this would harm not only Democratic Yemen but also the great expectations that are built on its struggle, its party and its national democratic achievements. Any repetition of the internal fighting would leave the door wide open for external and internal reactionary forces to sabotage Democratic Yemen's progressive efforts and what it stands for in the Arab world.



Who Are the Real Terrorists?

Rambo Reagan vs. President Qaddafi

Why has US imperialism designated President Qaddafi of Libya as the «principle source of terrorism in the world»? One reason is readily apparent: The Reagan Administration seeks to punish Libya for its Arab nationalist position and generous support to the Palestinian revolution and other anti-imperialist forces around the world. The second reason runs deeper: Reagan needs a scapegoat on which to heap the blame for increasing violence in today's world, lest the American people and others discover who the real terrorists are.

Since we wrote this article, new evidence has mounted, showing that US imperialism and the Zionist state are the real terrorists. The last week of January, the US 6th Fleet conducted military maneuvers right off Libya's coast. Intelligence information gathered at such close range was passed on to the Israelis. This enabled the Zionist enemy to hijack a Libyan plane carrying Syrian political leaders, on February 4th, on the pretext that Palestinian «terrorist» leaders were aboard.

The US has never presented any convincing evidence of President Qaddafi's guilt. Instead it relies on demagogic, claiming that Libya's military

apparatus far outweighs its real defense needs. This claim is totally misleading on two counts: One, Libya's military development has been geared to self-

defense against reactionary threats, especially those coming from Egypt since the time of Sadat - and encouraged by the US administration at the