

Editorial

Snags in the Enemy Plan

In a circular addressed to members of the US House Foreign Affairs Committee on October 9, 1985, William L. Ball, assistant secretary for legislative and intergovernmental affairs, stated that King Hussein of Jordan plays a key role in the «peace process» in the Middle East. In an attached statement, Ball added, «Indeed a strong, stable Jordan, able to defend itself against radical pressures, is in Israel's interests, as well as our own.»

In a speech delivered on February 19, 1986, King Hussein himself made it very clear that he will serve Zionist and imperialist interests, even if these contradict with the interests he is supposed to represent. The king's speech was carefully planned and timed. It was devoted to attacking the PLO and the Palestinian revolution, on the assumption that the overall conditions in the area would serve his ends. (See following speech by Comrade George Habash for more analysis of Hussein's speech.)

King Hussein estimated that the nationalist and progressive forces were handicapped by the prevailing balance of power which is tilting in favor of the reactionary forces — in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in Egypt, in Iraq and the Gulf generally, etc. Yet it now seems that the winds did not blow as King Hussein, Shimon Peres and Ronald Reagan had anticipated.

In the West Bank, Palestinian revolutionaries implemented the people's judgement against Zafer al Masri, the Israeli-appointed mayor of Nablus and collaborator with the occupation. This revolutionary judgement forced other collaborators to withdraw from participation in the Israeli-Jordanian plan for joint rule of the Palestinian land and people, with the help of Palestinian collaborators.

In Egypt, the regime, one of US imperialism's main allies and a strong supporter of King Hussein's policies, was deeply shaken by the Egyptian conscripts' revolt. The regime's weakness was underscored by the fact that the popular masses joined in the revolt which was directed against Egypt's relations with the Israeli enemy and imperialism.

To the east of Jordan, the Iraqi regime, another main ally, received heavy blows in the latest flare-up of the Iraq-Iran war, on both the northern and southern fronts.

To these events was added the failure of US pressure against Libya, unsuccessful Israeli tactics in Lebanon and continued resistance to Israeli occupation in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights. All this indicates that the US and Israeli policies, in collaboration with Arab reactionaries such as Hussein, are not running smoothly. Rather, they are facing real difficulties despite the fact that the Palestinian right-wing, represented by the Arafat leadership of the PLO, has failed to respond to the dangers facing the Palestinian cause. This leadership has so far failed to cancel the Amman accord with

King Hussein, which paved the way for this dictator to try to implement his conspiracy against the Palestinian people.

The right-wing leadership's failure to respond to the present danger was manifest in the PLO Executive Committee's statement on Hussein's speech, issued on March 8th. A PFLP Politbureau spokesman commented on this statement as follows: «The PLO rightist leadership's statement is disappointing to the Palestinian people who expected this leadership to cancel the Amman accord and abandon its betting on US solutions. This should have been the response to King Hussein's speech and his attempts to create an alternative to the PLO... The PFLP once again calls on all Palestinian organizations, forces and personalities to close ranks and unite in a broad nationalist coalition to abrogate the Amman accord and confront the threats explicit in Hussein's speech... The PFLP also calls on all leaders, cadres and members of Fatah (Central Committee), who are opposed to the Amman accord, to exert all possible pressure on the right-wing leadership of the PLO. This would be an important contribution to abrogating the accord, and pave the way for reuniting the PLO...»

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