

demnation of King Hussein's plan, to declare adherence to the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. This is the task which I call on you to accomplish immediately. Our masses in every town and camp must have their say about the plan to swallow the PLO. We declare that the Palestinian people are stronger than the enemy plans.

There are other aspects of confronting this plan: The role of the Jordanian national movement is important. There is the role of the Arab national regimes and national liberation movement factions, and the role of the international liberation movement.

### **The Israeli plan**

In addition to King Hussein's plan to swallow the PLO, there are the Israeli plans to liquidate the Palestinian cause altogether...

The Likud is a partner in the present Israeli government. Its plan is based on 'autonomy' — there is no Palestinian people; there will be no Palestinian state. There is an Arab minority which they don't acknowledge as Palestinians... These are 'allowed' 'autonomy'. There is another plan, that of the Labor Alignment, which leans to the right, i.e., closer to the Likud than is ordinarily thought. I don't want to go into detail, but

I do want to say that at the current moment, there is a policy which is mutually agreed upon between Likud and Labor. Their common ground is appointing Palestinian mayors and municipal councils... The Israeli aim is to liquidate the Palestinian cause, not leaving any trace — to show that people are content and those outside are loud mouths, by providing the very minimum requirements of daily civilian life, while completely neglecting national rights... King Hussein agrees to the appointment policy, whereby the Israelis and the Jordanian regime both fulfill an aim, resulting in joint self-administration, loyal to 'Israel' and Jordan. This is the dangerous step which confronts us in this period.

Our masses in occupied Palestine must confront this plan, rallying all national forces and exposing its aims. 'Israel' is a state of occupation, oppressing a people. It is very natural to resist and revolt — if not with guns, with molotovs; if not with molotovs, by raising the Palestinian flag, demonstrating, strikes or sit-ins. If we are unable, we sit at home and keep quiet, but to collaborate with the Zionist enemy is forbidden. The people's judgement will be carried out against those who do.

This is our view of the current political moment and how to confront the enemies' plans at this time... ●

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## *Execution of Zafer al Masri*

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### **PFLP Politbureau Press Release - March 2, 1986**

Today, the unit of the Martyr Guevara Gaza, operating in occupied Palestine, carried out the death sentence on Zafer al Masri in front of the municipal building in Nablus. The people's judgement, to execute Zafer al Masri, was due to his part in the Zionist-Jordanian reactionary project to liquidate the Palestinian cause, against the will of the Palestinian people.

Zafer al Masri was appointed Mayor of Nablus by the Zionist military governor in collaboration with the Jordanian regime. In announcing his execution, the PFLP spells out a warning to every one who dares to deal with or join the Zionist-Jordanian reactionary project which aims to liquidate the Palestinian cause by negating the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

It is treason to cooperate with the moves to create an alternative leadership ready to participate in the capitulationist settlement project being prepared by the Jordanian regime. It is moreover a stab in the back of the martyrs of Palestine who have given their lives in the struggle for self-determination and an independent Palestinian state.

Any such treason committed by anyone will be dealt with directly and

swiftly. The people's judgement will be carried out on such collaborators regardless of the protection afforded them by the Zionist occupation authorities and the reactionary Jordanian regime.

### **Why Zafer al Masri?**

The execution of Zafer al Masri was primarily a political act. It forcefully expressed the Palestinian masses' rejection of the Peres-Hussein joint venture to cultivate a substitute for the PLO. It showed an alternative to the rightist PLO leadership's conciliatory approach to the enemy plans.

Masri was a wealthy businessman and headed the Nablus Chamber of Commerce. He might have remained as such, had it not been for the enemy alliance's need for him in the given situation. Until recently, the Israeli occupiers had no luck in finding a Palestinian political figure of any stature, who would lend credibility to their 'civil' administration on the West Bank. Then the Palestinian right wing signed the Amman accord, signalling readiness to compromise the PLO's revolutionary and representative role. King Hussein took this as a green light for coordination with the occupiers. The most prominent result was the Israelis' appointment of Masri, known for his ties to Amman, as Mayor of Nablus,

replacing the popularly elected Mayor, Bassam al Shakaa.

If such an appointment had been allowed to stand, other Israeli appointees might have taken their seats in other West Bank municipalities. 'Civil' administration might have become a reality, despite the continued presence of the Zionist occupation army. This would be conducive to direct Jordanian-Israeli negotiations, 'settling' the Palestinian question via an Israeli-Jordanian condominium in the West Bank. Indeed this would boost Israeli economic expansion, stabilize the Jordanian monarchy and pass a piece of the pie to the upper strata of the Palestinian bourgeoisie. For the Palestinian people as whole, its spells no return to their home, no self-determination or other national rights, no independent state.

A major setback occurred for this project when the people's judgement was carried out on Masri. Within days of his assassination, every Palestinian figure, who had been slated for appointment to public office, vigorously withdrew his candidacy or stated that he had never harbored such intentions. It is hoped that this will give a boost to the overall mass resistance against the Peres-Hussein plans which are at the expense of Palestinian rights and the PLO. ●