

negotiations. He himself has admitted that he is not ready to enter negotiations on the Camp David model. He wants a popular base that will support him *before* and not after entering negotiations.

«The halt of coordination between the right-wing leadership and Hussein presents an opportunity for the former to withdraw (from the Amman accord) and make up for its mistakes by renewed full commitment to the Palestinian tenets. This leadership is fully responsible for the Palestinian situation. What I mean is not so much to punish the right-wing leadership as to protect the PLO from future falls. This can only be achieved through a front which includes all factions on the basis of the unanimous national program of the PNC's legitimate sessions.»

*Ibrahim Nimir Hussein, mayor of Shafa Amer and head of the regional committee of Arab municipalities in 1948 occupied Palestine*

«The PLO achieved its legitimacy and credibility from Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories. It is faithful to Palestinian interests, and decides what is required within the boundaries of the adopted Palestinian tenets. Our faith in the PLO is absolute.»

*Tawfiq Toubi, deputy secretary general of the Israeli Communist Party — Rakah*

«The king's speech confirms the soundness of our warning to the PLO about the danger which the trend of the Amman accord poses to the just Palestinian cause and to the PLO itself.» In an interview on February 23rd, Toubi stated that King Hussein's declaration, of stopping political coordination with the official PLO leadership, only emphasizes that he is on the way to a new settlement, Camp David-style. Blaming the PLO for hindering the peace process is to absolve the Israeli and US governments, who are actually responsible for blocking peace by refusing to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and denying the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Toubi emphasized that the PLO is required to clearly give up the trend of the Amman accord and restore unity on the basis of adhering to the rights of the Palestinian people, the program of the PNC's 16th session and the Aden-Algiers agreement. It must strive to restore the alliance with Syria, the forces

of national liberation and the socialist community, first and foremost the Soviet Union.

*The people of Jenin*

«We declare that the West Bank members of (the Jordanian) parliament represent only themselves. We reaffirm that the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of our people...We therefore call on our leadership in all factions to make serious efforts to restore the PLO's unity on a national democratic basis, on the tenets stipulated by legitimate PNC decisions.»

—This is an excerpt from a statement signed by the mayor and elected members of the municipal council of Jenin, by 22 different trade and professional unions, womens, students and youth organizations, other mass associations and committees, and dozens of shopkeepers.

*Ibrahim Tawil, elected mayor of Al Bireh*

«What has happened only reaffirms the necessity of all PLO factions' unifying on a patriotic basis...so that the PLO can impose itself from a position of strength and not weakness, for this only results in further concessions — a fact which neither our people nor the Palestinian national factions would consent to.»

*Farid Al Tawil, elected member of Beit Sahour municipal council*

«History has taught us that any political solution achieved with an imbalance of forces often results in inadequate agreements where the stronger imposes conditions on the weaker. The net result is a form of capitulation. It is a well-established fact that the US will never be impartial towards the Arab-Israeli conflict. The strategic alliance between the US and Israel is proof of this. The natural response to the situation of official Arab defeat is the PLO's unification on a clear patriotic basis, its alliance with the Arab liberation movement and the support of liberation movements around the world...Those who are betting on US solutions are swimming in a sea of illusions — we've had enough of ploughing the sea.»

*Samiha Khalil, head of the Family Welfare Society, Ramallah*

«In these decisive times of our people's history, we demand unity and

only unity. Without this, we cannot be effective. Sooner or later, our independent Palestinian state will be established on the land of Palestine under the leadership of the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of our people...no matter the obstacles and catastrophes.»

*Dr. Hanna Halaq, owner of «Al Darb» (closed by the Zionists)*

«This stage requires extra efforts to reinforce ranks and achieve genuine national unity based on previous PNC sessions...Any solution short of restoring the rights of the Palestinians and their sole representative, the PLO, and establishment of a state is far removed from the aspirations of our people...Hussein's speech meets all the US and Israeli conditions for a settlement which would surely be at the expense of the Palestinian people.»

*Mohammad Atrash, head of the executive board of the youth social center and member of the Committee to Defend Duheisha Camp*

«King Hussein's speech is nothing more than a defense of US imperialism, aimed at liquidating the PLO. The puppets he addressed have no influence in the ranks of our people in the occupied territories. Our people have the ability to foil the king's plans and the plans of those whose pockets are bulging with his money...The PLO leadership must pause and realize what their policies have inflicted on our people's cause. They must take the initiative to immediately break off the ill-reputed Amman accord.»

*Students in Bethlehem and Bir Zeit*

Student groups in these two West Bank towns issued a statement emphasizing that King Hussein's teary-eyed concern for the masses in the occupied land does not change the fact that these masses are a part of the PLO. They have defended the PLO from all past and present plots. They are always concerned about its unity and the legitimacy of its representation.

*«Al Mithaq» newspaper published in Jerusalem*

Al Mithaq stressed the dangers underlying the king's speech which takes the blame off the US administration and its aggressive policies against ►