

Editorial

For a long time, we have been warning that the time might come when the Arab patriotic forces would find themselves unable to influence the course of events in the area in a positive way. Recently, there have been several indications that the time we have warned of is near. One of these indications is related to the uprising in Jordan: Students rebelled against the regime's suppression of their academic rights and nationalist activities. Yet the organized political movement in Jordan is not yet strong enough to protect and sustain their uprising. A second indication is to be found in the war of attrition against the Palestinian masses and revolution, in the camps of Beirut. Despite the persistence of the war of the camps, the nationalist forces - Palestinian, Lebanese and Arab - have yet to find a solution whereby all guns would be pointed against the real enemies. The third indication is Yasir Arafat's consistent refusal to cancel his accord with King Hussein of Jordan, and the repercussions this has in the Palestinian arena.

JORDAN

The monarch of Jordan and his police forces were surprised by the broad scope of the uprising at Yarmouk University. They cracked down on the masses in the most violent manner, killing 18 people and injuring hundreds of others. (See following story.) This uprising occurred at a time when King Hussein is trying to facilitate the imposition of US imperialist plans in the area. The Jordanian monarch is doing his best to convene an Arab summit which he hopes would rescind the Rabat Summit's resolution recognizing the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Changing this resolution would help King Hussein to enter into a unilateral deal with the Zionist state, similar to Camp David. Encouraged by his imperialist masters, especially in Washington and London, King Hussein is doing his best to create a puppet leadership for the Palestinian people, as an alternative to the PLO. However, the broad uprising in Jordan showed that the monarch and his regime represent nothing other than the interests of imperialism and Zionism in Jordan - and Arab world.

BEIRUT

Also in Beirut, the masses are subject to attack, as the Amal movement continues its most recent war against the Palestinian people and revolution, and the Lebanese nationalist forces. To justify its war, Amal is taking advantage of Arafat's declarations about returning to Beirut, and the persistent reports that he has made a deal with Amin Gemayel to this end.

The Amal movement and its leadership know very well that the Palestinian fighters and masses have always been in the patriotic camp and will remain there in the future. Yet Amal insists on referring to Arafat and his declarations as a phoney excuse for continuing the deadly war against our camps. In this, Amal forgets that the Zionist army with all its US-made jets, tanks and bombs, failed to discourage the Palestinian fighters and people from continuing their revolution. Despite all the attacks against them, the Palestinian masses have continued their struggle against imperialism and Zionism, to achieve their legitimate aim of establishing an independent Palestinian state. Yet Amal, determined to subdue the Palestinian masses in Lebanon, has refused all the proposals of the Palestine National

Salvation Front for: (1) an immediate ceasefire in and around the camps; (2) allowing the Red Cross to evacuate the dead, treat the injured, and bring in food and water; (3) withdrawal of Amal's fighters from around the camps; and (4) a stop to Amal's harassment of Palestinian civilians in Lebanon.

We have made our position on the war of the camps clear in the past, and today we are making it even clearer: What Amal is doing against the Palestinian revolution in Lebanon serves only the enemies of the Lebanese masses and patriotic forces. What Amal is doing against the Palestinian camps strengthens Arafat and makes him more popular, rather than weakening him as Amal claims. What Amal is doing in Beirut tilts the balance of forces in Lebanon to the benefit of the fascist, sectarian forces.

For this reason, we call upon all Arab patriotic forces to join their efforts with those of the Palestine National Salvation Front, to stop this unholy war against the Lebanese and Palestinian patriotic forces in Beirut. We also remind all Palestinian patriotic forces that the attacks are directed against all of us, from different parties and trends. Moreover, these attacks will continue unless all Palestinian patriotic forces join ranks in the PLO, to restore its national line of struggle against imperialism, Zionism and Arab reaction.

PLO

It has become clear that the Palestinian right wing, led by Yasir Arafat, continues to insist on deviating from the PLO's national program. The right wing persists in clinging to the Amman accord with King Hussein. The right wing is, furthermore, taking advantage of the differences among the Palestinian patriotic and leftist organizations, hoping to restore a semblance of unity to the PLO, based on its deviationist program and line. This is why Yasir Arafat and his group refuse to cancel the Amman accord, to pave the way for Palestinian national dialogue aimed at reunifying the PLO on a strong, patriotic, political and organizational basis. Their refusal disrupted the honest initiative made by President Shadli Ben Jadid of Algeria, for reunifying the PLO and restoring its national line.

The rightist trend pursued by Arafat and his followers serves to keep the Palestinian arena divided. It also helps pave the way for the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary plots, antagonistic to our people and revolution. That is why we call on all progressive and patriotic forces in the PLO to unite their efforts to impose the cancellation of Yasir Arafat's accord with King Hussein. This is the prerequisite for a serious, responsible dialogue aimed at reactivating the role of the PLO in the struggle against the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plots against the Arab masses and progressive forces.

The US strike on Libya, the Zionists' iron fist and the Jordanian regime's brutal repression show that the enemy alliance will stop at nothing to impose its plans on the area. Repelling this violent onslaught requires that the Arab national liberation movement regain the initiative. The Palestinian revolution has vital interests in contributing to this process, by regaining its place at the forefront of the anti-imperialist struggle in the area.

