

foundation that guarantees against any deviation in the future, that guarantees that there would be responsible, serious examination of anyone who has departed from legitimate decisions or provided a cover for this departure.

In his speech of February 19, 1986, King Hussein announced the suspension of coordination with Arafat and Fatah's Central Committee. We thought that this would have created an opportunity for this leadership to review its calculations and retreat from its position, thus announcing the cancellation of the February 11th agreement. However, they did not do so, thus wasting an opportunity for the Palestinian people and the PLO, to pave the way for dialogue about the means for reestablishing national unity.

Our Palestinian people have a long experience in struggle. They know how to get rid of the occupation. They are determined to defeat the occupation and build an independent Palestinian state and return to their cities and villages. Our people will not be deterred from achieving this goal, regardless of the size of the obstacles. The uprising now going on against the occupation is one of the signs of this.

How much contact, Dr. Habash, is it possible for you to have with the people of the occupied territories? How much of an organization does the PFLP have there? Has the way the PFLP has developed under occupation surprised you?

We consider communication with our people in the occupied territories as one of our most important duties. In this way we learn what they are thinking, what they are suffering and what struggle methods they are able to use-for this changes in accordance with the prevailing situation. We have therefore established our own methods for constant communication with our people in the different areas under occupation. I think you will understand if I don't talk about these methods due to the security considerations involved, but I assure you that there is daily contact.

One of the factors that enables us to make daily contact is the broad range of the Popular Front's organization which is distributed in all parts of the occupied land. It is present in most if not all of the fields of our people's life under occupation. The Popular Front's organization in the occupied land is one of the most important in the battle against the occupation on the political, mass and military levels. We depend on our masses who are fighting against the occupation from within their trade unions, on the land, in cooperatives, factories, schools, universities and via other forms of daily struggle, including the ongoing struggle inside the Zionist prisons.

Due to security conditions for the Popular Front's organization in the occupied land, I cannot reveal its strength in num-

bers, but I assure you that it is a main, leading force - as the enemy knows and has admitted. We were able to overcome all the enemy's attempts to deal a final blow to our organization, and it has remained strong and active. Of course, the development of our organization did not surprise me, because I watched this growth daily. This raises my admiration and pride and makes me more confident of victory.

Do you ever see a solution, in your own lifetime, for example? Knowing them as you do, how do you expect the people of the West Bank, Gaza etc. to react to the prospect of an indefinite stalemate? Will they be able to preserve that identity?

The nature of the enemy that occupies our land and uproots our people makes me say that our battle is not an easy, short one as has been proven by the events. This is especially true since we face an enemy which receives massive aid from the strongest imperialist force in the world, US imperialism and from other imperialist countries. This support is subject to no conditions, no matter how inhuman and immoral the practices of this state of 'Israel' are, no matter how much it violates the basic laws of reason and justice in its aggression against our people and revolution.

Our people know that our battle is not an easy one or short, and they are determined to continue the struggle. The complexity of the battle we are fighting to win our independence and build our national state, will not make us lose hope in the possibility of victory. The people of Algeria sacrificed a million martyrs to win their independence, and they succeeded. The people of Vietnam resisted the French, the US and their allies - and won. So did other peoples of the world, despite the length of their period of suffering under occupation and oppression.

Our people fought against the Ottomans who stayed in our countries for over 400 years. Our people fought the British Mandate for over 30 years. Our people have resisted the Zionist invasion of Palestine since the end of the last century. They are continuing the struggle without despair. They have no doubt that victory is coming. This is the meaning of the fact that we find our children, no more than seven years old, confronting the occupation troops with stones and sticks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This is the meaning of the fact that the children of Rashidiyeh camp confronted the Israeli invaders with simple weapons and bravery, although the latter were armed with the newest tools of destruction - tanks, planes, cluster, splinter and vacuum bombs. The world named the children of the camps in South Lebanon «the RPG children.»

Our people adhere to their struggle and national identity more than ever. Every day, they invent a new method for asserting their national identity. Those who wager on the despair of our people should look at the celebration of the March 30th Day of the Land every year. Those who think that our people will be struck by despair should look at how our people in the occupied land have begun celebrating weddings. These have become national occasions with national songs and the chanting of slogans that challenge the occupation. Those who think our people will become frustrated must look at the fruit harvests which have been turned into occasions where our people demonstrate their mutual solidarity in facing the occupation. The volunteer work committees of young men and women offer their services to help the peasants pick their fruit, thus taking advantage of the opportunity to educate one another about the occupation plans. They raise their children on the necessity of confronting the occupation to the end.

Is it necessary to name all the forms which prove that our people are determined to continue the struggle until victory over the occupation? Let us look, for example, at school students who volunteer to help carry out the projects of their national municipalities in the 1967 and 1948 occupied territories. Such efforts have even increased after the Israeli government impeded payment of the deficit to these municipalities. How are a people of this caliber going to be frustrated? How can their national identity vanish?

In closing, I can confirm that victory is coming, but I cannot give a time for this. I can anticipate things, but I cannot predict the future.

