

Editorial

The US imperialist schemes for the Middle East have advanced in the recent period. The most dangerous of the steps in this direction have been: the meeting in Morocco between King Hassan and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres; the measures taken by King Hussein against the PLO in Jordan and the occupied West Bank; and the Israeli plans to appoint Palestinian puppet mayors in the 1967 occupied territories.

What do the US imperialist plans aim at, and how were they promoted by these steps? These plans aim at imposing total imperialist control over this politically, economically and geographically strategic area, capitalizing on the results of almost four decades of Zionist aggression and occupation of Arab land. Due to the inflow of petrodollar wealth to the region in the seventies, the ruling class in the reactionary Arab states grew more ready to enter into alliance with the Zionist state. Arab reaction holds the illusion that alliance with the enemy would restrain 'Israel' from swallowing Arab wealth, as it had swallowed Arab land. This was the background for Sadat's visit to 'Israel' and the signing of the Camp David accords with Menahem Begin, under the auspices of former US President Carter.

The advent of the Reagan Administration, and its determination to escalate world tension to a degree unparalleled since World War II, gave further impetus to the US drive to dominate the Middle East and oversee a new alliance between its allies, the Zionist state and the reactionary Arab regimes. Such a new class alliance would pave the way for unprecedented exploitation of the resources and manpower of the region. It would moreover turn the entire area into a reactionary bastion, and a base for the US military forces, not far from the southern borders of the Soviet Union. In the context of these realities, Shimon Peres' visit to Morocco can be understood, as can King Hussein's measures against the PLO and the Palestinian revolution (see article in this issue) and the Israeli moves in occupied Palestine.

THE HASSAN—PERES MEETING

In terms of the situation on the Arab level, the meeting in Morocco serves the following aims: (1) It serves to establish as an accepted fact the idea of face-to-face meetings and direct negotiations between Arab and Israeli officials. This means reviving the spirit of Camp David after the many obstacles it has faced on the official and popular levels in the Arab world. (2) It gives momentum to the Egyptian-Israeli relations, and boosts the Egyptian regime after the isolation it has suffered in the eyes of the Egyptian masses and patriotic forces. (3) It facilitates the efforts of King Hussein to enter into direct negotiations with the Zionist government, aimed at joint rule over Palestinians and their land.

Though the crucial issue at this stage is direct Jordanian-Israeli negotiations, King Hassan stepped forward at this point, aiming to boost his standing with the US by achieving a breakthrough for the 'peace' process. In this he relied on the political weight he carries in official Arab circles. At the time of Peres' visit, Hassan was chairman of the Arab summit. He heads the Arab League's committee for «Jerusalem's salvation.» He is head of the 7-man committee selected by the most recent Fez Summit to visit the five permanent member states of the UN Security Council, to explain the summit's resolutions.

These factors explain the general silence about the Peres-Hassan meeting on the part of the Arab reactionary regimes. In their language, silence often means consent.

From the Israeli viewpoint, the meeting between the Moroccan monarch and the Zionist prime minister serves the following aims: (1) It bolsters the Labor Party's position, reflecting that it enjoys more harmonious cooperation with the US, than does the Likud. It indicates that the Labor Party has the capacity to reach a settlement with the Arab reactionary regimes. (2) It gives Peres added reasons for dissolving the Zionist coalition government if Shamir of the Likud tries to

object to any agreement that Peres might make. If this should happen, it would be easier for Peres to form a new government with a Labor majority, and make a gain comparable to that made by Begin with Camp David. (3) It strengthens the Israeli position of calling for direct, bilateral negotiations with the Arab governments - a procedure which makes it easier for US imperialism and 'Israel' to impose their conditions on each separately, as was the case with Sadat.

CONFRONTING THE DANGER

Confronting the present difficult situation requires the creation of the following conditions: (1) achieving at least a minimal official Arab position against King Hassan's meeting with Peres, a step to be initiated by the states of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front: Syria, Algeria, Libya and Democratic Yemen; (2) practical measures against King Hassan and all his supporters, to be undertaken by the forces of the Arab national liberation movement; (3) reuniting the PLO on a correct political and organization basis, so that it can play its rightful role in resisting the current enemy moves.

THE PLO'S UNITY

The unity of the PLO is the most important factor in confronting the imperialist plans. Such unity can only be achieved by arriving at the correct political and organizational basis, through democratic dialogue between the various organizations in the PLO. To succeed in rectifying the PLO's current situation, this dialogue must be on the basis of the Palestinian national platform. By signing the Amman accord with King Hussein, Fatah's Central Committee deviated from this platform. Thus, return to the national platform requires the immediate cancellation of the Amman accord by those who signed it, namely, Fatah's Central Committee headed by Yasir Arafat, and the present PLO Executive Committee selected at the illegitimate Amman PNC.

Those who argue that a coming PNC will discuss the issue of cancellation will not convince even the naive, because the PNC did not sign the accord, or even discuss it. Cancelling it is the duty of those who signed it, and if it is going to be cancelled, why not cancel it now? Moreover, who can guarantee that the illegitimate PNC that convened in Amman, only representing the right wing, will cancel the accord? (If a PNC is convened, it might be with the composition of the illegitimate one, unless there is a preceding process of dialogue and rectification.) Efforts to convene a new PNC or reunite the PLO without the preceding rectification process will also run into the dilemma that the rightist leadership is now saying that the Amman accord is already dead, due to King Hussein's measures against the PLO. Yet this leadership still refused to bury the dead, by cancelling the accord outright. What is to prevent them from waiting for its resurrection?

It is the responsibility of the right wing of the PLO, then, to open a serious patriotic dialogue among the different Palestinian resistance organizations. Such a dialogue must lead to agreement on basic political lines. Primary among these is closing the door on US imperialist schemes which could be materialized through the Egyptian, Moroccan and Jordanian regimes. To this end, the right wing must sever all relations with these regimes, for they are promoting US imperialism's plans to liquidate the just Palestinian cause.

The essential corollary of the above is precisely defining the PLO's alliances on the Arab and international levels. On the official Arab level, the allies of the PLO and the Palestinian people are the nationalist regimes, namely, Syria, Libya, Democratic Yemen and Algeria. The PLO cannot equate the reactionary regimes with the patriotic ones, must less favor the reactionaries, as the right wing has so clearly done since 1982. Arafat and his group might argue that Syria blocked the relations, but the response to that should not be alliance with the Arab reactionary forces. Rather, there must be continued