



Leila Khaled addresses the congress

attempts to liquidate the PLO or any expression of rebellion. He noted that the uprising of Palestinian and Jordanian students at Yarmouk University in May, which the regime put down in a bloody massacre, is an indication of the growing awareness that the national struggle is one of all people in the region.

LEBANON

The bloody war of attrition in Lebanon not only targets the Palestinians, but all patriotic Lebanese. Comrade Abu Ali noted the various pretexts under which Palestinians are killed -for example, Atif Aoun of the Amal movement who justifies the war on the camps by saying it is to prevent Palestinians from settling in Lebanon. "We experienced this distortion of facts during the massacre last year in Sabra, Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh, and we stressed two reasons for our being in Lebanon: (1) preserving our people's political and social rights, their right to security and to continue the liberation struggle based on our declared national program. We have no other, secret program hidden away in our chambers.

(2) supporting the Lebanese national program in confronting the reactionary program, and participating in fighting the Zionist occupation.

"I think we were true to our word. Under the banner of the Lebanese National Resistance, we buried our martyrs without declaring to whom they were affiliated. We fought in the hills in the name of the Lebanese National Resistance... All Palestinian militants fought on the basis of solidarity, for the national cause... In whose interests is it to waste and divert nationalist efforts?.. We are tired of slogans and illusions and the beating of war drums... We are tired of claims that it is a war to overthrow Amin Gemayel... and then having it end up in a war against the camps." Comrade Abu Ali stressed the fact that there is no wish for this type of war, but "we will fight a war in defense of our people, cause and gun". He quoted a Cuban saying: "It is idiotic to get involved in a war which can be avoided, but it is cowardice and shameful to avoid a war that must be fought."

Comrade Abu Ali pointed out the dangers of imposing sectarian solutions at the expense of national progressive ones. He denounced all the efforts of right-wing Palestinians who are betting on the reactionary forces in Lebanon. He stressed that the PFLP's alliances will be of a patriotic nature, and warned against those who instigate inter-Palestinian fighting which threatens all with destruction.

On the current truce in Lebanon, he said: "Only when relations among the Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian allies are established on a sound and permanent nationalist political

foundation can we consider that the era of truces is past." Otherwise the ceasefires will continue to be only temporary truces.

THE PLO'S UNITY

Comrade Abu Ali then spoke about the issue of Palestinian national unity, stressing that it must be based on a national program opposed to capitulationist projects, not just unity per se. Although the PLO's present difficult situation is due to both subjective and objective factors, the subjective factor should have been fortified to safeguard the PLO against the adverse objective conditions. The PFLP's view on how to set the PLO's situation aright, politically and organizationally, has been documented in the Program for Unity and Democratic Reform, the agreement of the Democratic Alliance and the Aden-Algiers agreement; these documents remain sound in principle, even though their implementation has been hindered.

Attention was called to the right wing's self-contradictory position on the Amman accord (with King Hussein). On the one hand, Arafat's men declare that the Amman accord is dead, and issue statements against the Jordanian regime's deportation, arrest and surveillance of Palestinians. On the other hand, they refuse to take any concrete step to cancel the Amman accord, even for the sake of national unity. Cancellation of the Amman accord is the first step towards extricating the PLO from its crisis and a guarantee of resolve to be committed to the national program.

In closing, Comrade Abu Ali, in the name of the PFLP Politbureau and Central Committee, wished the women's conference success in achieving the national and social goals which all are striving for.

Final Statement

The conference session resumed on June 27th, ending with adoption of the final statement. Below is a summary of the proceedings and the final statement.

The conference assessed a number of important documents dealing with the activities of the PWO. The organizational program, and the program of activities and tasks, submitted by the central preparatory committee, were approved, as was the program of tasks and activities for the coming phase, and the internal rules and regulations. Lastly, the general council was elected.