

The discussions at the conference and the designation of tasks were based on a scientific assessment of the women's issue, for the liberation of women is organically tied to economic and social liberation. Thus, struggle for women's liberation is an intrinsic part of the progressive struggle of revolutionary forces. As a democratic mass organization, the PWO works for guaranteeing women's right to participate in political activities and increasing women's participation in the national liberation struggle. Therefore, the PWO encourages women to become members of unions as well as other popular organizations. This is important for advancing the women's cause and establishing their rights.

The PWO advocates the unity of the Palestinian women's movement within the framework of the GUPW. It calls for participation in the GUPW activities and for struggle from within to improve the GUPW's political positions. Based on this, the conference approved the following guidelines for PWO activities:

Comrade Abu Ali Mustafa addresses the congress



1. To be active in the GUPW and consolidate the unity of the Palestinian women's movement in this framework. This in turn will bolster the GUPW's militant role in the Palestinian arena.
2. To struggle to establish an advanced national line which would govern the position and progress of the GUPW, and to confront all moves to divert the union from the sound national line.
3. To strive towards establishing democracy and proportional representation in the GUPW.
4. To strive for activating the GUPW and strengthening its relations with progressive Arab and international unions.

The conference also discussed the Palestinian women's movement in the occupied territories, in the camps in Lebanon, and in other places where there are Palestinian communities in exile.

On the political level, the conference dealt with current issues on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels. The Amman accord was termed the dangerous turning point towards implementing imperialism's plot to liquidate the Palestinian cause. The conference also emphasized the importance of national unity. To this end, the PWO calls for the PLO's official leadership to forgo its destructive trend, cancel the Amman accord and begin comprehensive dialogue for restoring national unity. The PWO adds its voice and efforts to those of other Palestinian democratic and national forces struggling for unity. The statement expressed high esteem for the Algerian and Soviet initiatives in this respect.

The PWO called attention to the dangerous developments in the occupied territories and the importance of confronting the Zionist-Jordanian-Egyptian maneuvers. The PWO noted the bloody events in the Beirut camps. It condemned the massacre at Yarmouk University and pointed out that this is an indication of the multifaceted crisis of the Jordanian regime. In this context, the PWO emphasized the importance of building a national front in Jordan, as an effective means of confronting the regime's reactionary policies and solidifying ties with regional and international progressive and democratic forces to confront the imperialist policies.

The statement condemned the official state terrorism practiced by the Reagan Administration in the form of the aggressive attacks on Lebanon, Libya and Syria. The conference commended and supported the peaceful initiatives of the Soviet Union concerning the nuclear arms race.

Finally, the PWO vowed to struggle for strengthening the role of the Palestinian mass organizations and unions, most importantly the GUPW, and to contribute actively to realizing the Palestinian national program.

TELEGRAMS TO THE CONFERENCE

From the Executive Committee of the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees in the occupied territories:

Comrades, members of the first conference of the Palestinian Women's Organization, we take this opportunity to salute you. With clenched fists raised high in determination, we extend sincere hopes for success, hoping that your first conference will be a new brick added to the structure of our people's revolution in its continued struggle against the Zionists, and other forces of the enemy camp. We had sincerely wished to participate in your conference, but our duties hold us here. Our land must be planted and our children raised on the milk of molotovs and stones. Our eyes are turned towards you, however, proud of your daily confrontation with the enemy. Go forward, for any victory of yours gives us more hope and determination in our march.

From the Popular Committees of Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh:

Comrades, your conference convenes at a time when a brutal attack is being launched against our people and revolution in the

camps of Beirut. Our steadfast masses congratulate and support you in your first conference. We wish you success and positive results which will channel into the progress of the revolution in general and the increased militancy of the women's role in particular.

From the women of the Cuban Embassy in Syria:

We have witnessed scenes which have become familiar to us all. A Syrian woman in the occupied Golan Heights fights a fully armed Zionist soldier with a stick. No annexation decision or regulations about indentity cards, nor any form of Nazi oppression can daunt the Arab woman. She will stand proud like the skies of the Golan Heights. The Golan is Arab and will remain so forever...

Telegrams were also received from: Communist Party of India; Communist Party of Portugal; Woman's Bureau of the Palestinian Communist Party; Iraqi Women's League; Woman's Bureau of the Palestinian Liberation Front; Omani Woman's Organization; Democratic Woman's League in Saudi Arabia; Woman's Bureau of the Popular Struggle Front; Palestinian Youth Organization; Popular Woman's Association of Sidon, Lebanon; Jordanian Woman's Movement.