

PFLP Visit to Democratic Yemen

Having been invited by the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), a PFLP delegation, headed by Secretary General George Habash, visited the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, June 23-29th. Aside from discussing major political issues, the main purpose of the visit was getting a picture of the situation after the internal fighting of January, and how the Yemeni leadership has been able to solve the problems this presented.

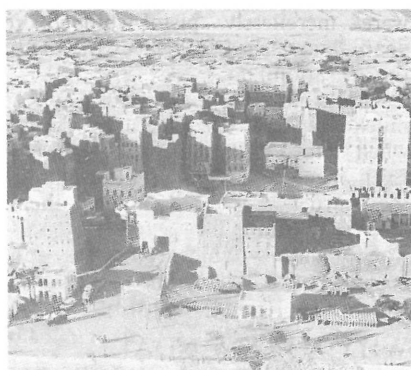
Upon arrival in Aden, Doctor Habash made a statement to the Aden News Agency, saying that the visit was a confirmation of the PFLP's ongoing solidarity with the October 14th revolution, led by the Yemeni Socialist Party, especially after the regrettable events in January, when a number of the historical leaders of the revolution were martyred. Dr. Habash expressed confidence in the Yemeni Socialist Party's ability to overcome the consequences of the violence. He added: "It is the duty of the PFLP and all nationalist and progressive Arab forces to do their best to safeguard the vanguard role of the October 14th revolution in the Arab liberation movement."

The delegation was welcomed by Comrade Ali Salem Al Beed, Secretary general of the YSP, and members of the politbureau. The warm reception accorded the delegation expressed the strength of the militant relations between Democratic Yemen and the Palestinian revolution in general, and the PFLP in specific.

Dr. Habash had two official meetings with the YSP secretary general. In both, Comrade Al Beed gave detailed explanations about the violent events of January 13th, and the practical measures taken by the YSP in the political, social, economic, educational and organizational fields, to contain and resolve the problems which arose as a result of this violence. Comrade Al Beed confirmed that the YSP will adhere to its principles for achieving the national democratic revolution with socialist horizons. He affirmed that in the coming period, relations with the PFLP would be further consolidated. The PFLP delegation stated its satisfaction with what was said concerning the party leadership's ability to overcome the consequences of the January 13th events.

The PFLP delegation met with Comrade Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas, member of the YSP Politbureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council leadership committee, and with

Politbureau member and Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Al Dalee. Comrade Al Attas explained the activities of Democratic Yemen for uniting Arab efforts to confront Zionist and imperialist plans in the area, and for fulfilling the legitimate goals for which the Arab people are struggling. For his part, Dr. Habash gave a detailed explanation of



the latest developments in the Palestinian revolution, and the main tasks facing the Arab democratic and progressive forces. He confirmed Democratic Yemen's role as the Palestinian revolution's strategic ally.

The delegation met Comrade Saed Saleh, member of the YSP politbureau and minister for state security, and Saleh, politbureau member and defense minister. The delegation heard a detailed account of the internal situation and the defense capacity of Democratic Yemen, and expressed their satisfaction.

The delegation visited the central committee office where the tragic violence occurred on January 13th, causing the loss of the historical leadership of the October 14th revolution: Abdul Fattah Ismael, Ali Antar, Saleh Musleh and Ali Sha'e. The delegation visited the families of these martyred politbureau members, and laid a wreath on their graves at the January 13th Martyr's Cemetery.

While in Aden, Dr. Habash met with the ambassadors of socialist countries,

explaining the current situation of the Palestinian national struggle in the occupied territories, Lebanon and elsewhere. He discussed with them the position of the PFLP on reuniting the PLO on a nationalist basis. The delegation also met with comrades from the Popular Unity Party (affiliated to the National Democratic Front of North Yemen) who explained the current situation in North Yemen.

Comrade Habash met with leading cadres of the YSP organization in Aden. He recalled his experiences working with the Yemeni revolution's leaders who were martyred on January 13th, dating back to the sixties: "Due to their absence, this visit was especially painful. Yet I feel proud of the October 14th revolution. The Yemeni Socialist Party has passed this regrettable stage. I myself experienced difficult days from January 13th until the violence ended. We Palestinian and Arab people, confronting the oppression and aggression of imperialism for many years, have passed through some really rough periods... I personally experienced the difficulties of the January 13th events. They were as difficult as the June 1967 defeat, the day we left Jordan in 1971 and Beirut in 1982. Still, we are proud of your steadfastness and the continuity of your revolution..."

"You have heard me before comparing the role of the Yemeni revolution on the Arab level, to that of the Bolshevik revolution on the international level... I know the material limitations of this country... but I'm convinced that more important is its political voice which expresses the interests of Arab workers and which constitutes the major support to the Arab national liberation movement as a whole... Though you experienced a shake-up in January, I have confidence in your masses, their political awareness and the experience of your revolution, its leadership and cadres. I was relieved to hear from the politbureau members and Secretary General Al Beed, that the party has been successful in overcoming the negative effects of the violent events; that it has regained its leading role in the society, uniting the masses to confront all problems and achieve the national democratic revolution; that it has regained its ability to play its role not only in Yemen, but in the Arab Peninsula and the Arab world."

Dr. Habash also spoke about the Palestinian struggle, the efforts to restore the PLO's unity, and the obstacles erected by the right-wing leadership's insistence on retaining the Amman accord as an option for returning to the US solution when it has the chance. At the end of the meeting, the PFLP delegation answered questions posed by the Yemeni comrades.