

all attempts at military attacks launched from outside. There were dangerous, deviant practices on the economic front, carried out by the conspirators, Ali Nasser Mohammed and his clique, in the past period. These deviations aimed at weakening the public and cooperative sectors, and creating and developing parasitic sectors. They aimed at striking planned development of the national economy, and caused the waste of public assets. They also caused the weakening of economic relations with the socialist countries, and the development of consumerist trends in our society. The events of January 13th caused severe economic losses for the country. Losses in buildings and fixed assets, caused by the conspiracy, were about 42 million dinars (\$126 million). We have allocated 40 million dinars (\$120 million) for repairing what was destroyed and continuing social and economic development.

At present, the economic conditions are the central issue in the struggle of our party. We are concentrating all efforts for developing these conditions, increasing production, maintaining public ownership and improving labor. We feel satisfied with our accomplishments so far in resolving the biggest part of the consequences of the conspiracy. These accomplishments are due to the inspiration of our masses and their participation in voluntary work and other initiatives, and to the role of the construction sector in repairing damage. This gives us confidence in our ability to foil the enemy's plans for destroying our revolution via the economic front.

The forces antagonistic to your revolution are still threatening with external interference. What are you doing to confront this danger? How are your relations with neighboring states?

It has been proven that those who planned and executed the bloody January 13th plot, with its massacres and huge dangers, were counting on external intervention to contain their defeats and topple the progressive regime in our country. The heroic steadfastness of our party members and the masses, and the great internationalist position of the Soviet Union, prevented external intervention. This aborted the hopes of those enemies who expected to capitalize on this crisis in order to destroy the Yemeni workers' and peasants' state.

In this context, the peaceful policy of our country has played an important role in preventing external intervention. This policy guarantees continuing the policies of peaceful coexistence and international solidarity in our foreign policy. We are determined to continue our relations, especially with fraternal countries and neighboring states, on the basis of peaceful coexistence, constructive cooperation, mutual respect for national sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs and guaranteeing peace and stability in the area.

There were strains in your relations with the Ethiopian revolution. What is the situation now?

We have close, militant relations, consolidated by blood, with the Ethiopian revolution, the vanguard Ethiopian Workers' Party and Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam. We are in the same trench confronting antagonistic conspiracies planned by the imperialist forces against our two revolutions and countries. We feel comfortable with our accomplishments in removing the misunderstandings that arose in Yemeni-Ethiopian relations, due to the misleading and falsifications of the conspirator Ali Nasser Mohammed. He aimed to isolate Democratic Yemen from its true friends and cover up his conspiratorial relations with forces antagonistic to our revolution, as part of a plan to attack the progressive system in our country.

Day after day, the militant relations between Democratic Yemen and Ethiopia are being consolidated, based on common beliefs and goals. We are struggling side by side to accomplish these goals, guided by the great ideas of scientific socialism and proletarian internationalism. We are interested in maintaining and developing this relationship, because we consider it a source of strength for our just struggle and for both the Arab and African national liberation movements.

How do you envision your future role in the Arab national liberation movement?

In the light of the strong relation between our patriotic, Arab nationalist and internationalist commitment, we consider the task of consolidating the unity of the Arab national liberation movement as a primary task to which we should devote our utmost efforts. Mobilizing and uniting the militant abilities and will of our Arab people, and their nationalist and progressive forces and regimes, is an important precondition for confronting the enemies' challenges to the Arab national liberation movement. These challenges reached a climax in the conspiracy and outright aggression against the vanguard position of Libya and Democratic Yemen, and what is now being planned against steadfast Syria. We are concerned about increasing the role of our party and country in solidifying the unity of the Arab struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

We will continue our party's efforts for reuniting the PLO and consolidating its militant alliance with Syria and the Lebanese national movement. We also want to help pave the way for more joint activity between the Arab progressive nationalist forces and states in confronting the aggressive and expansionist policies and plans of imperialism and Zionism, that aim at striking the achievements of the Arab liberation movement and reversing the movement of history.

What should Palestinian national unity be based on?

We support the Palestinian people's struggle to return to their homeland, for self-determination and establishing an independent state under the leadership of the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative. Reuniting the PLO is an important task in confronting the attacks of the imperialist and Zionist forces against the Palestinian cause. We think that the basis for Palestinian national unity is democratic dialogue and adherence to the decisions of the 16th PNC, held in Algiers in 1983, and the decisions of the Fez summit.

Palestinian national unity should confront all plans and projects that fall short of fulfilling the indelible, legitimate, national rights of the Palestinian Arab people. We welcomed the Algerian initiative presented by President Shadli Bin Jedid, on reuniting the PLO. Our country worked with Algeria in the past to achieve these noble aims. The most prominent result was the signing of the Aden-Algiers agreement. We shall continue efforts with our Algerian brothers to end the state of division in the Palestinian arena, in order to remobilize the energies of the Palestinian people and revolutionary fighting forces to confront the dangers threatening their just cause.

How do you evaluate the relationship between the YSP and the PFLP?

I would like to stress that the relationship between our party and the PFLP is a militant, historical one. Our relations were consolidated over the various stages of the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions. The PFLP and its secretary general, Comrade George Habash, stood by our revolution and party in all difficult situations. We highly appraise the positions of solidarity that the PFLP has taken in support of the struggle of our party and people to accomplish the tasks of the national democratic revolution and solidify the socialist orientation of our country. The PFLP also supported us in confronting all internal and external conspiracies aimed at striking our progressive regime and delaying the progressive development of our revolution.

In the latest bloody conspiracy of January 13th, the PFLP and our militant comrade George Habash played an important role in condemning the conspiracy. We shall continue to solidify the historical, militant relations between the YSP and the PFLP in order to serve the militant alliance between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions, increasing their contribution to strengthening the struggle of the Arab national liberation movement against imperialism and Zionism. ●