

on this, I am convinced that the main obstacle to the initiatives to reunite the PLO is the PLO leadership, its wagering on the US solutions and its individualist style of leadership that prevent the mobilization of all our people's energies in a serious struggle for national independence. Up till now, the PLO leadership did not cancel the Amman accord. The most we can say in this regard is that the PLO leadership declared it had frozen - not cancelled - the accord. What guarantees us that this infamous accord is not going to be revived? What guarantees us that the PLO leadership won't go back to wagering on US solutions? Don't we have the right then to say that the right-wing trend is the primary obstacle blocking these initiatives?

This does not mean that it is the only obstacle. There are others that must be taken into consideration, but we must distinguish between the main obstacle and other obstacles that can only be removed after the main one is removed. One of the other obstacles is the extremist trend in the Palestinian arena. The extremists build their analysis and positions regarding the PLO's crisis on unrealistic premises. Another obstacle is the Arab states that see the PLO's crisis as a chance to contain the PLO, or liquidate it if it refuses to be contained.

Despite these obstacles, we feel that the conditions today are suitable for seriously thinking about restoring the PLO's unity. Moreover, the efforts of the Palestinian masses and their national democratic forces, the Arab national liberation movement, and our loyal friend, the Soviet Union, and the socialist community will be able to achieve this central link in the Palestinian national struggle: regaining the PLO's unity on a correct political and organizational basis.

The PFLP had a position rejecting contact with Fatah's Central Committee before cancellation of the Amman accord, but recently you met with Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad). What was the motivation and what was achieved?

First, it is important to explain the difference between comprehensive national dialogue and contacts, political meetings or dialogue with Fatah's Central Committee. When we say comprehensive national dialogue, it is understood to mean the dialogue that aims at ensuring the success of an upcoming PNC. The PFLP sees the necessity of publicly and officially cancelling the Amman accord in order for the comprehensive national dialogue to start. This dialogue aims at serious preparation for the upcoming PNC session which will culminate in restoring unity to the PLO. The comprehensive national dialogue will discuss a number of political and organizational topics. One of these topics is reviewing the past three years experience, discussing whether the present political situation could possibly produce a settlement for the Palestinian cause, and what sort of settlement would be possible in the present balance of forces. Additional topics to be discussed are the PLO's official Arab alliances, the distinguished position of Syria in these alliances; organizational topics concerning the composition of the upcoming PNC - the number of members, the ratio of independents, the ratio of the resistance organizations' representatives; and the amendments we demand in the PLO's internal rules, including that the organizational section of the Aden-Algiers agreement should be taken into consideration, etc.

The PFLP will submit all of these topics for discussion. The PFLP advocates an immediate, direct and open dialogue right after official and public cancellation of the Amman accord. Why do we consider this cancellation an important issue? It is not to complicate things, as some say. The PFLP's point of view is that the Amman accord is a dangerous issue, and to be frank, this point of view is not subject to discussion. The Amman accord replaced the program of national consensus for the right to return, self-determination and an independent state, with a program for confederation with Jordan. For God's sake, is it permissible to discuss such an issue?! There are issues that are not up for discussion, and one of them is national independence. We say clearly and publicly: We are not ready to give up this right.

A large number of our cadres have studied in party schools in the socialist countries. They studied about the subject of

compromise and the necessity of compromising on many issues in order to ensure the continuation of the revolution. At the same time, they learned that there are principal issues that should never be bargained with. The Amman accord is such an issue. Moreover, we all know that the Amman accord was not signed by the 16th PNC or even by the 17th PNC that we don't recognize as a legitimate session. Why, then, is there talk about cancelling it in the next PNC session? Don't we have the right to demand that the party that signed the accord cancel it? That party is Fatah's Central Committee. Don't we have the right to consider it dangerous to say that the accord will be cancelled in the next PNC?

We have been through bitter experiences we can't forget. One of these is that once the comprehensive national dialogue begins, the individualist leadership feels that this is to its interest and the first step towards holding the PNC. Then, as has been the case before, this leadership will insist on its position and keep insisting. Then, for the sake of national unity and the PNC's success, everybody will be forced to submit to their position. We could see that this leadership would agree to freeze the Amman accord, but not cancel it. It will accept a formula similar to that of the Prague Declaration, that concerns freezing, not cancelling. Here we must ask ourselves and our masses: Do we accept that the Palestinian position on a dangerous and principal issue like the Amman accord is general, vague and subject to different interpretations?! There is a big difference between freezing and cancellation. We cannot be lenient when it comes to a principal issue. This is why we say that the Amman accord should be cancelled officially and publicly first. Then we can begin dialogue on other issues.

Some may ask: What is the difference between cancelling the Amman accord and boycotting relations with the Camp David regime in Egypt, since both are gates to the US solution? There is a big and qualitative difference. The Amman accord is a signed document. It cannot have an unknown fate. Up till now, the Jordanian regime continues to declare, as in the prime minister's speech at the UN, that the accord is not cancelled either by the regime or by the PLO.

There is one last point concerning the comprehensive national dialogue and the unifying PNC. We were asked the following question: «If we publicly and officially cancel the Amman accord, will the whole problem be eliminated?». Our answer was frank. Besides the Amman accord, there are two issues to be decided. First is the political issue about closing the Cairo gate and commitment to the political section of the Aden-Algiers agreement. Second is the organizational issue, i.e., commitment to the organizational section of the Aden-Algiers agreement, which stipulates a collective, democratic leadership for the PLO.

Now I will answer the specific question about what motivated the contacts with Fatah's Central Committee. It is our genuine wish to seek chances to unite the Palestinian arena. Although we know the Fatah Central Committee's position from the newspapers and their statements, we wanted to know their point of view first-hand on specific issues, such as why they don't want to publicly and officially cancel the accord, despite knowing that this is needed for uniting the Palestinian arena. We wanted to know if this was because of organizational considerations. We wanted direct and specific answers to these questions in a frank and brotherly atmosphere, aiming at motivating responsible national thinking at this stage of the revolution.

Restoring the PLO is a crucial responsibility. We don't want to be responsible before history and our masses, for having hindered unity when there is a basis for unity. We want to stress this deep feeling of responsibility. We want our cadres, ranks, masses and friends to feel that we don't waste any chance to reach this goal. For these reasons, we had contacts with Fatah's Central Committee. It is true that we want to keep our conscience clear, but that is not everything. Our only aim is to benefit from any chance to regain national unity on the basis agreed upon by our masses and allies. After these contacts, responsibility becomes clearly designated. In fact, it was designated before, but now it is more accurately designated. Having made the distinction between comprehensive national dialogue and contacts with Fatah's Central Committee, it is in our interest and the interest of restoring the PLO's unity that