

that agreed to the opening of branches of the Cairo-Amman bank in the occupied territories in order to finance the plan. This plan has also gained the approval of Western European countries and Arab reactionary regimes. The other aspect of the Jordanian-Israeli attempts to eliminate the PLO and the Palestinian cause is normalizing relations before signing an agreement. This means that the Jordanian regime and 'Israel' agree on intensively normalizing their economic, social and cultural relations as a step towards normalizing political relations...

The danger of this plan lies in the fact that there is an Arab party, Jordan, sharing directly in the Israeli attempts to eliminate the PLO. Since 1967, 'Israel' has attempted several times to eliminate the Palestinian cause by bypassing the PLO. Our masses may remember the attempt to do this by creating the village leagues, etc. We all know the difficulties that the enemy faces in finding a popular sector ready to cooperate directly. Now there is Jordan sharing these attempts with 'Israel', which paves the way for certain Palestinian sectors that previously had difficulties entering direct cooperation, to show willingness to cooperate in this period...

Moreover, this conspiracy is being activated in a situation in the Palestinian and Arab arenas, that encourages the conspiring parties to push ahead. On the Palestinian level, there is the division of the PLO. On the Arab level, there is the deterioration we considered in a previous question. In addition, the joint Jordanian-Israeli plan is being executed along with the continuation of all the Israeli plans imposed since the 1967 occupation: land confiscation, settlement building, subordinating the economy of the West Bank and Gaza Strip to the Israeli one, the iron fist, Judaization, etc.

My emphasis on the danger of this plan is in no way intended to mean that we are facing an inevitability. Our heroic people in occupied Palestine, through their struggle, are daily proving their ability to confront and foil these plans... To confront the joint Jordanian-Israeli efforts, all Palestinian political, popular and military powers should be joined, as well as the support of our Arab and international allies, to achieve the Palestinian people's national aim of full political independence...

**Does the danger of the Jordanian-Israeli efforts necessitate the establishment of a national front in the occupied homeland? What are the obstacles facing the formation of such a front?**

This danger imposes the formation of a national front in the occupied homeland, composed of all nationalist forces; it necessitates other things as well. If we look at this issue in detail, we face the following question: Are we thinking of a front to be responsible for leading the struggle of our masses under occupation until the achievement of national independence? Does such a front faithfully adhere to the decisions taken at more than one PNC session, that the national front is the main arm of the PLO in the occupied homeland? If it is to be such a front, we can't ignore the importance of the political line that leads to national independence; we can't ignore the issue of the Amman accord. The front's components should unanimously condemn this accord and demand its cancellation. If we think strategically, we cannot ignore this question. The accord exists and Jordan still publicly says that it was not cancelled, so any such front should have a clear stand on this accord. Hence, the Amman accord is the main obstacle to establishing such a front.

Now, if all parties cannot agree on this issue, don't we have to think of other formulas for uniting the Palestinian national forces under occupation? The formation of a national front, in the strategic sense, is the best solution, and we will continue struggling to achieve this. However, if it is not possible, we should think of all possible formulas for uniting all Palestinian national forces on the platform that can be mutually agreed upon.

We are proud of the unity in the field achieved among the various organizations of the Palestinian revolution in fighting the Israeli enemy and all the joint Israeli-Jordanian plans. We will seek to develop this unity, raising the formula for unity to

a higher level that would eventually lead to the formula of a national front as the PLO's arm and the strategic leader of our masses in occupied Palestine until achieving liberation and national independence.

**What is the status of the struggle of our people in occupied Palestine within the overall national strategy of this period?**

I can summarize my view of these struggles in one sentence: This is our Palestinian people... This is a heroic people... These are the Palestinian children, elderly, men and women, who believe in their cause and are dedicated to continuing the struggle. No obstacle will stand in their way. Their struggle is a challenge to the leadership to face up to its responsibilities. They challenge the status quo on the Arab level and present a living example of the potential of the Arab masses to eliminate this Zionist cancer from Palestine and the Middle East.

The status of the struggle inside occupied Palestine, within the overall strategy for the national work in this period, is that it is the central task in the Palestinian national struggle. Saying this does not, however, diminish the importance of retaining the second base of the revolution, the Palestinian armed presence and revolutionary nationalist work in Lebanon, that aims to support the struggle inside occupied Palestine. Moreover, the fact that the struggle in occupied Palestine is the central task of our national struggle, does not lead to ignoring the importance of Arab nationalist and international factors in achieving our national goals.

**How do you evaluate the PFLP's positions and role over the past year?**

Due to the time factor, I cannot answer this question in depth, but I can pinpoint the things that should be appreciated in recording the history of this past year. The first thing that comes to my mind at this particular moment is the essential role that the PFLP played in ruling out inter-Palestinian fighting in Lebanon. The plan for Amal and the Lebanese Army to eliminate the Palestinian armed presence, changed into accomplishing this by internal Palestinian fighting. I am very relieved by the results of the role of the PFLP in stopping this, this month in particular.

Next, I would point to the slogan of unity in the field raised by the PFLP in order to join together the Palestinian forces in occupied Palestine and Lebanon, to prevent the conspiracies our people are facing in both places. To confront the Jordanian-Israeli cooperation, and in light of the situation of the PLO leadership, the PFLP raised this slogan and worked on this basis. I remember with pride a statement issued by our comrades in occupied Palestine about the intensity of the dangers of the new conspiracy of Israeli-Jordanian cooperation. This statement encouraged our cadres and comrades to work on the basis of this slogan, considering it realistic at this juncture.

There was also the position taken by the PFLP after King Hussein's speech on February 19th, that a new situation had been created in the Palestinian arena, calling for serious thinking about reuniting the PLO on a correct political and organizational basis. Since that time, the political activities of the PFLP have focused on the necessity of using this chance and seriously participating in reuniting the PLO. In this year, the PFLP has been a political voice calling for restoring unity without ignoring the experience and lessons of the past four years. Throughout this year, as in previous years, the PFLP has been fully dedicated to intensifying its military activities qualitatively and quantitatively. On this occasion, I salute the martyrs of the Naharia operation which embodied great heroism and had great political lessons and significance.

As I said, I cannot review all the PFLP's positions of this year. As always, our positions have been taken on the basis of our political and organizational strategy, and the decisions of our national congress. The branches and departments of the PFLP annually draw up plans for the year. When the Politbureau reviews the results of the plans of this year, I expect we will see a high rate of success.