

# Lebanese Communist Party

## Congress

In late January, the Lebanese Communist Party held its fifth congress in the town of Ba'kleen in the Shouf mountains, the fortress of the national movement in Lebanon.

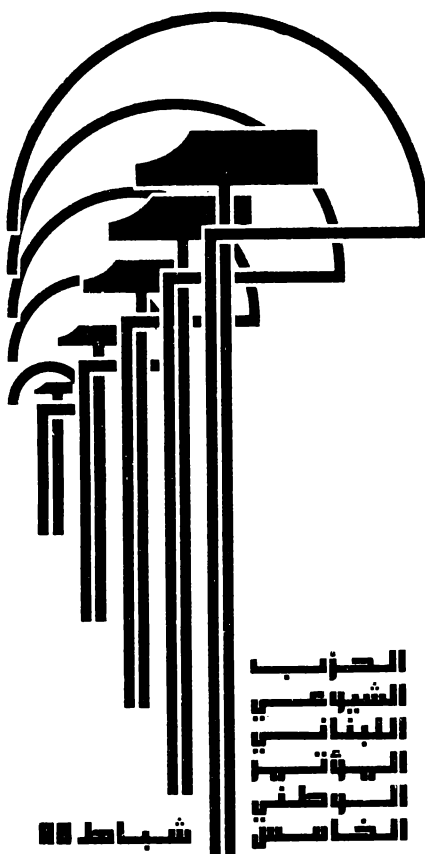
The Shouf mountains provided a fitting location for the communists' congress for a number of reasons. In these mountains, armed presence is strictly that of progressive nationalists, at a time when these forces are threatened other places in Lebanon. The mountains stand as a symbol of the unity of the Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist struggles. They are the site of high-level Lebanese-Palestinian coordination. The mountains represent the vanguard struggle against fascism, where the Phalangists were pushed out in 1983. In the mountains of Kamal and now Walid Jumblatt, the mountains of the Progressive Socialist Party, the Lebanese communists' congress could be held as a demonstration of democracy, a demonstration against sectarian domination and the murderous war waged on the camps. The congress was a demonstration of the line for directing all guns against the imperialist-Zionist-fascist enemy.

Three hundred and eighty-three elected delegates convened for the congress. In addition, 57 representatives of other Lebanese and Arab parties, and parties from abroad, were in attendance. Congress preparations date back one year, and the Central Committee's report and the party program had been discussed and evaluated at all levels of the party prior to the congress. The 5th congress distinguished itself by providing an example of courage in practicing criticism and self-criticism, to be emulated by all revolutionary democratic and communist forces.

On the second day, the congress and the guest delegations joined together in calling for an end to the camp war and lifting the siege of the camps. The congress ended with the election of a new central committee. Comrade George Hawi was reelected general secretary of

the party. Two deputy general secretaries were elected: Comrades Karim Mroweh and Nadim Abdul Samad.

Below we print excerpts of the speeches delivered at the congress by LCP General Secretary George Hawi,



Symbol of the LCP's 5th congress

PSP President Walid Jumblatt, and PFLP General Secretary George Habash.

### GEORGE HAWI

General Secretary George Hawi addressed the congress with an analysis of the Lebanese situation, since the previous congress in 1979. He noted

that after the Zionist invasion (1982), the dominant section of the Lebanese bourgeoisie had moved from «its choice of the fascist trend, supported by imperialism and Zionism, to overt national treason, becoming part of the external aggression directed against Lebanon.» He spoke of the heroic steadfastness of the Lebanese and Palestinian people, supported by Syria, explaining that the Lebanese National Resistance was the historical reply to the historical treason of the Lebanese bourgeoisie that collaborated with the occupation.

Comrade Hawi reviewed the attempts of the Zionist occupation to fuel sectarian strife in Lebanon, in order to mask the real contradictions. He then made a critical assessment of the accomplishments of the nationalist forces: the battle to liberate the mountains from the Phalangists, the February 6th uprising to liberate West Beirut from the sectarian army, and the forced withdrawal of the US and NATO forces. Comrade Hawi evaluated the Arab position on Lebanon and explained the failure of the Arab regimes to confront the Zionist invasion of Lebanon.

Comrade Hawi said, «The revolutionary movement faces two tasks: the nationalist task and the democratic task. Priorities are not the same at all times... Sometimes the nationalist task predominates, with the democratic task receding, and sometimes the democratic aspect comes to the fore.» During the occupation, the nationalist task predominated. After the nationalist victory, it was no longer a question of foreign occupation pure and simple. In the nationalist arena, the different class, social, sectarian, ideological and political forces began to have secondary contradictions among