

themselves. These differences were elevated to the position of a primary contradiction. Comrade Hawi reaffirmed that the solution to the Lebanese crisis did not lie in rearranging the sectarian system, but in seeking a national democratic solution.

Outlining the framework within which the congress evaluated and criticized the party's positions and work, Comrade Hawi said that in facing a constantly changing, complicated situation, as in Lebanon, the party risked making daily, tactical mistakes, and even strategic mistakes. He pointed out that if the party stresses unity among all the nationalist forces to the absolute, it risks losing its independence, neglecting its historical tasks and program, and subordinating itself to the program of the bourgeoisie. On the other hand, putting too much stress on secondary contradictions could destroy the unity of the national forces, and leave the communist party isolated, prone to extreme 'leftism' and unable to use all opportunities. This would give the main enemy greater chances to strike the revolutionary forces.

THE PARTY OF PALESTINE

Comrade Hawi spoke of the PLO and its division, saying that the nationalist trend had participated in all the battles against the enemy alliance, while the capitulationist trend was betting on imperialist solutions. He noted that the role of the official PLO leadership «became a negative factor in the conflict in Lebanon.» He said that though the establishment of the Palestine National Salvation Front represented an important development, it had weak aspects from the start. According to Comrade Hawi, these weaknesses include insufficient seriousness about charting an alternative revolutionary trend, and deficiencies in the ongoing work to rally the Palestinian masses to confront the deviationist trend and the dangers it entails, especially in the camps in Lebanon.

Comrade Hawi said: «Our understanding is that we are a party of Palestine and the Palestinian cause. We are part of the militant Arab people's movement and one of its revolutionary

contingents. From this position, we ally with or contradict and disagree with other contingents of the Palestinian revolution, not from a different or antagonistic position. We don't think it strange that we sometimes adhere to the Palestinian cause, which is a pan-Arab national liberation cause, more strongly than some Palestinian contingents.»

Comrade Hawi called for an end to the camp war, rejecting this war and the call for disarming the Palestinians, a call which originated with the Israelis. At the same time, he warned against the right-wing leadership of the PLO using Lebanon to serve its deviationist trend.

The speech of Comrade Hawi also included an analysis of the Arab and international situation, and the organizational tasks of the party.

WALID JUMBLATT

Comrade Walid Jumblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, and symbol of the Lebanese national movement, delivered a courageous speech assessing the current situation. After saluting the Lebanese Communist Party, he posed the question: «Are we on the threshold of a new political settlement similar to that of 1976? At that time, the Lebanese National Movement, the movement of Kamal Jumblatt, was deprived of achieving victory... the isolationism of the Phalangist Party was considered cancelled, although its suspicious ties to the US and 'Israel' were not cancelled.» Comrade Jumblatt rejected all sectarian solutions and attempts to whitewash the Phalangist President Amin Gemayel, as happened at the Islamic conference.

About the camp war, Comrade Jumblatt suggested that for once one should differentiate between Arafat and the Palestinian people. «Let us give the Palestinian nationalist forces the real role (in defeating Arafat), or do we have to continue this mad fighting under the slogan of refusal to return to the pre-1982 situation? Why is it demanded to rid the Palestinians in Lebanon of their weapons, instead of solidifying the militant relations between Lebanese and Palestinian nationalists facing Israel in the South and in the North (a reference to the Lebanese fascists)?

Comrade Jumblatt concluded his speech by expressing determination to continue consolidating the relations between the Progressive Socialist Party and the Lebanese Communist Party, and struggling for the national democratic program in Lebanon and the defense of the Palestinian cause.

GEORGE HABASH

General Secretary George Habash headed the PFLP's delegation to the congress. Observers noted that he was one of the most distinguished and warmly welcomed guests. As Comrade Habash entered the congress hall, he was hailed by chants of solidarity, reflecting the special, historical relations between the PFLP and the Lebanese Communist Party.

Comrade Habash began by speaking about the Lebanese Communist Party: «Through your history of struggle... you were able to play an important role in the course of the class and national struggle of the fraternal Lebanese people... Your party has been an example for vanguards of the Arab working class. In a creative way, your party applies the dialectical relationship between the national cause in each Arab country and the pan-Arab cause... I am convinced that your party will continue the armed struggle not only to liberate the remaining occupied land in south Lebanon, but also to participate actively until the liberation of Palestine.»

Concerning the Palestinian situation, Comrade Habash said: «The enemies' plan (especially that of Jordan and 'Israel') is capitalizing on the current division in the PLO, which was caused by the destructive political line of counting on US solutions, adopted by the current PLO leadership after 1982.» He emphasized the danger of liquidation that the Palestinian revolution is facing in Lebanon, as seen in the camp war. Comrade Habash stressed that the Palestinian revolution in Lebanon is with the national democratic program, confronting all forms of sectarian solutions. He spoke about the basis for reuniting the PLO: official cancellation of the Amman accord, severing ties with the Camp David regime in Egypt, and establishing a democratic, collective leadership for the PLO.