

strument for liberation.» He pointed out that this basis was clearly outlined in the Tripoli document.

Comrade Habash noted that the Amman accord had been officially cancelled, but that it had not been possible to adopt as clear a position on relations with the Egyptian regime as in the Tripoli document. «However, we have reached a formula which we clearly understand as meaning to stop these relations, and that these relations will be based on the decisions of the PNC and Arab summits... We preferred to have a clearer position on Egypt, one that would not be subject to change or to different interpretations.» Comrade Habash reaffirmed that the Palestinians' basic tenets are the program for return, self-determination and an in-

dependent state, and that the PLO is their sole, legitimate representative, with no sharing or mandating of its representation.

Comrade Habash noted that agreement on forming a collective leadership had been reached during the dialogue, as well as agreement on implementing the organizational section of the Aden-Algiers accord. He affirmed that the PFLP will continue to struggle for developing the PLO's political line and organizational structure. He pointed out that the reasons that had led to the formation of the Palestine National Salvation Front no longer prevailed, noting that this front had been «a provisional framework with the aim of returning the PLO to the correct political line.» ●

The PNC

The PNC's unifying session, dedicated to the steadfastness of the camps and the people's struggle in the occupied territories, opened in Algiers on the afternoon of April 20th. Besides the Palestinian delegations, the council was attended by Arab officials, representatives of Arab nationalist regimes and liberation movements, delegations from the socialist and non-aligned countries, from progressive organizations and national liberation movements around the world, in addition to hundreds of journalists.

After a moment of silence was observed in memory of the martyrs of the Palestinian revolution, speeches began. The main speakers were PNC President Sheikh Al Sayih, PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat, Secretary General of the Yemeni Socialist Party Ali Salem Al Beed, Idrise Al Banna of Sudan, Secretary General of POLISARIO Mohammed Abdul Aziz, Arab League Secretary General Shadli Qleibi, and Secretary General of the Islamic Conference Organization Sharif Birzada.

After the speeches, Abu Al Adib, Fatah Central Committee member, read out the list of names of the PNC members. It was announced that the official quorum was achieved by more than 30. Present were 319 members from a total of 426. Five PNC members were unable to attend because they are imprisoned in Arab countries. Of these

are PFLP Politbureau member Azmi Khawaja and Ahmed Musleh, both held in Jordan. In the following days, more members of the PNC arrived.

The council resumed its session the next day, and was addressed by Vasili Tartota, Central Committee member of the CPSU, on the importance of national unity. Speeches were also delivered by representatives of Cuba, Bulgaria, Romania, Yugoslavia, Poland, China, Zambia, the Italian Communist Party, Iraq, North Yemen and others.

POLITICAL REPORT

On the third day of the council's session, Farouq Qaddoumi submitted the political report, covering the most prominent political developments from 1983 until the present, especially the political activities the PLO had been involved in and Palestinian-Arab rela-

tions. The financial report was also submitted.

The political report overlooked many important issues. While not attempting to defend the Amman accord, the report failed to address its essence, focusing instead on the reactions and differences it had generated in the Palestinian, Arab and international arenas. The report noted that the Jordanian government's decision to stop political coordination with the PLO had naturally put the accord out of function.

On the Arab level, the report stated that Egypt is still far removed from joint Arab action, due to its adherence to the Camp David accords. The report mentioned Shimon Peres' visits to some Arab capitals, without even naming them.

Concerning the international peace conference, the report explained that the PLO's acceptance of an international will to convene a conference on the Middle East conflict was new evidence of the goals of the Palestinian people's struggle. The report added that the US and Israeli positions, by demanding a conference without authority and considering direct negotiations as the basis of any settlement, deprive the conference of its true content. The report highly praised the socialist countries' positions for being based on firm, consistent principles, supporting the Palestinian people's struggle and the PLO.

Concerning the Western European countries, the report stated that «these countries have not yet proved their good intentions towards the struggle and rights of the Palestinian people.» The report attributed a big part of the responsibility for this to the US administration's position of obstructing any development of the European position. The report mentioned some recent, positive aspects of the EEC's position.

In conclusion, the report reaffirmed the necessity of restoring the effectiveness of Arab solidarity. It called for a halt to the Iraq-Iran war, for consolidating the Arab League's capabilities, for eliminating the effects of the Camp David accords, and restoring Palestinian-Syrian relations to their natural state. ►