

Editorial

Anti-Zionist Israelis are Allies

On June 11th, there was a meeting between a PLO delegation and an Israeli delegation in Budapest, Hungary. This meeting led to controversy within the Palestinian movement, which necessitates an explanation of the different viewpoints concerning relations with Jewish forces in 'Israel'.

THE NIHILISTS

The first viewpoint is a nihilistic one. The advocates of this viewpoint oppose any relations with Israelis. They do not see the necessity of having relations with democratic, anti-Zionist, Jewish forces in 'Israel', even if these people are supportive of the Palestinian struggle and legitimate rights, and opposed to the repressive Israeli policies against the Palestinian masses. The nihilists say that any meeting with any Israeli means outright recognition of the state of 'Israel'. Concurrently, they reject the idea of making use of inter-Israeli contradictions as being wishful thinking.

THE RIGHTISTS

In contrast to the first viewpoint, the rightists go as far as meeting any Israeli, whether Zionist or not, provided that the Israeli concerned claims to be a supporter of the PLO. The rightists believe that such contacts will lead to Israeli and US recognition of the PLO. It is clear that the advocates of this viewpoint put more emphasis on the diplomatic work. They do not see the importance of changing the balance of forces in the region as a prerequisite for forcing 'Israel' and the USA to concede to Palestinian demands and recognize the Palestinians' legitimate, inalienable, national rights. Many times in the past, spokespersons of the Palestinian right wing have declared this or that year as the year of liberation, after listening to this or that US official speak about the importance of solving the Palestinian problem. These rightists were spelling out their ideology which is an idealist one.

THE REVOLUTIONARIES

The third viewpoint neither minimizes nor overestimates the importance of relations with Jewish forces. The advocates of this viewpoint clearly see that relations with democratic and progressive Jews are important. They put only one condition to such relations, namely, that the Jewish forces involved should first of all be anti-Zionist. Secondly, the advocates of this viewpoint recognize the importance of gaining support for the PLO and Palestinian national rights. Revolutionaries within the Palestinian national movement realize that Zionism, in theory and practice, means the negation of the Palestinian people's right to Palestine. In theory and practice, it means the implantation of an alien canton in the Middle East, a canton opposed to national liberation, democracy and progress, whose main function is promoting imperialist interests. For this reason, Palestinian revolutionaries think that the thesis about a Jewish nation being in formation in 'Israel' is irrele-

vant. Such a thesis merely serves as an excuse for the imperialists and colonialists to market their merchandise in the Middle East via the state of 'Israel'.

In the last PNC session, held in Algeria in April, the PFLP objected to a resolution on this issue, which was adopted by the council. This resolution (see text of the PNC resolutions in this issue) did not state the condition mentioned above.

ASSESSING THE BUDAPEST MEETING

In Budapest, Abu Mazen and Abdel Razaq Yahya of the PLO Executive Committee met an Israeli delegation headed by Charlie Biton of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality. The delegation included members of Mapam which is a Zionist party. The policy of engaging in such meetings is harmful to the Palestinian struggle, for a number of reasons:

First: For the PLO to meet a delegation that includes avowed Zionists tends to blur the distinction between Zionism and anti-Zionism. Such a policy weakens the struggle of the PLO and its allies against Zionism and the state of 'Israel'. At present, the Palestinian movement is fighting an important battle to defend UN resolution no.3379 which equates Zionism with racism. For their part, 'Israel' and the US government are attempting to reverse this resolution, which would never have seen the light of day had it not been for the Palestinian armed struggle and the support the PLO enjoys from the friends of the Palestinian people all over the world. The resolution would not have seen the light of day had it not been for greater awareness of the atrocities of the Zionist state, among peace-loving people all over the world. Still, the rightists contend that their policy is correct, although it blurs these realities.

Second: The Budapest meeting occurs at a time when the Zionist Prime Minister Shamir is promoting relations with 'Israel' on the African continent. Without a doubt he is making use of the fact that some Arab regimes - and even the PLO - have contacts with Israelis, asking African leaders, «why shouldn't you too?» Here one should ask what the difference is between meeting the Zionist, Shamir, and meeting a member of the Zionist party, Mapam.

Third: the Budapest meeting occurs at a time when the US, 'Israel' and the reactionary Arab states are very active in their efforts to reach a capitulationist settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict, based on unilateral solutions and bilateral negotiations. The prelude to such a settlement is the liquidation of the PLO and Palestinian national rights. There is no doubt that the reactionary Arab regimes will utilize the PLO's contacts with Zionist elements to justify their own negotiations with the Zionist enemy and recognition of the Zionist state. It is for this reason that Butros Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, praised the meeting in Budapest, terming it a positive step.

In conclusion, we would like to stress the importance of contacting the democratic and progressive, anti-Zionist forces who support the PLO and Palestinian national rights, while