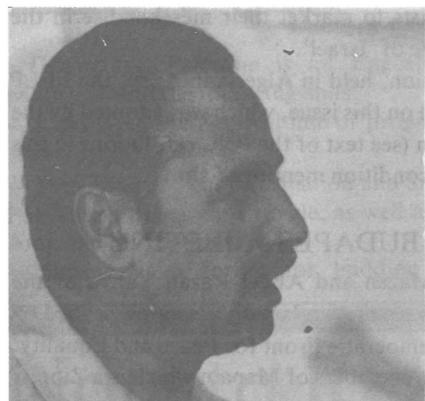


opposing Zionism and Israeli policies in theory and practice. Relations with these forces serve not only the Palestinian people's interests, but the interests of these forces in combatting Zionism.

The PLO Executive Committee should objectively assess its policy on this vital issue. It should assess the results of its

meetings with Zionist elements. In so doing, it will regain an important weapon in its efforts to isolate the Zionist movement and state. The road to real peace in the Middle East is filled with battles. In these battles, the democratic and progressive, anti-Zionist Jewish forces are main allies of the Palestinian liberation movement.



Assessing the PNC

Interview with Abu Ali Mustafa

Soon after the unifying Palestinian National Council session in Algeria, *Al Nida*, the Lebanese Communist Party's newspaper, interviewed Abu Ali Mustafa, deputy general secretary of the PFLP and newly elected member of the PLO Executive Committee. In the interview, he assesses the results of the PNC and their repercussions on the struggle in Lebanon.

What is your assessment of the political and organizational resolutions adopted at the latest PNC?

The resolutions of the unifying PNC have two aspects, dealing with the political and organizational matters of the PLO. These resolutions cannot be understood without consideration of the preceding years and the discussions in the Palestinian arena concerning the necessity of political and organizational reforms in the PLO. The weeks preceding the PNC session were characterized by intensive dialogue in Algiers and other countries, but most important was reaching the summation in the Algiers session.

First among the main issues of discussion was the cancellation of the Amman accord. To us and others, this accord was not only an accord. It was a program facilitating a policy totally contradictory to the Palestinian national program. Second among the main issues discussed was breaking relations with the Camp David regime in Egypt. In addition, there was a third issue concerning recognition of the UN Security Council resolution no. 242. Over the past years, some Arab reactionaries have attempted to press the PLO to adopt this (recognition) as policy. This was not an issue of great dispute though.

NATIONAL PROGRAM REHABILITATED

The sum of the political resolutions adopted has rehabilitated the Palestinian national program and reaffirmed the patriotic tenets for which the Palestinian people are struggling. These resolutions have settled the most disputed issues, particularly cancelling the Amman accord prior to the PNC, and basing relations with Egypt on the 16th PNC's resolutions. Agreement was also reached concerning the Palestinian and

Arab levels. This presents good prospects for the possibility of reconciliation with Syria and establishing relations on the basis of common struggle against the US-Israeli project.

On the international level, the PNC reaffirmed a clear understanding of the international conference. This indicates prospects for active political moves whereby the PLO should present its understanding of this issue, since the international conference deals with the Middle East conflict, the core of which is the Palestinian cause... The PNC focused on the main aspects, taking into consideration that any conference should deal with the Palestinian people's cause, affirm the Palestinians' legitimate rights to self-determination and establishing an independent state, and recognize the PLO as the Palestinian people's representative, participating on an independent and equal footing.

ORGANIZATIONAL REFORM INCOMPLETE

On the organizational level, there was the imperative of instating collective leadership and establishing correct, democratic and front-type relations within the PLO. This issue is not less important than the political issues, for it concerns the instrument for expressing the program and interpreting it in daily political relations. We can say that a positive but incomplete step was taken. Still, it paved the way for us to develop these resolutions through the daily organizational work in the PLO's institutions.

We think that what was achieved in this session was great, but there must be serious adherence to the political resolutions and firm execution of the organizational aspects. There should also be active political moves to revive the Lebanese-Palestinian-Syrian triangle of steadfastness and to establish a state of Arab solidarity antagonistic to the imperialist-Zionist reactionary project.