

both at the same time». The same day, the *Al Hamishmar* newspaper condemned the policies of the government and called for a political solution that «will rid Israel from ruling other people» and said that «the sole reason for the uprising is refusing the occupation and the determination to confront it».

On Dec. 26 th 2,000 Israelis from the «Peace Now» movement demonstrated in front of the residence of the Israeli prime minister Yitzak Shamir in occupied Jerusalem. The demonstrators condemned the Israeli practices in the occupied territories and called for peace. The Israeli police used teargas to disperse the demonstrators in an attempt to silence critical voices within the Israeli society.

## THE NATURE OF THE UPRISING

On Dec. 20 th, in a political analysis on Israeli radio, the reasons for the uprising were stated as follows: 1. An accident between an Israeli army truck and a Palestinian civilian station wagon which caused the death of 4 workers and the injury of 7 others. 2. The 20 th anniversary of the PFLP, which led the PFLP members to instigate the unrest. 3. That «terrorist» organizations outside called for the mass unrest. Though all these factors could have played a role in the timing of the uprising, it would be oversimplistic to try to explain by them the magnitude and duration of the uprising. The Israeli radio analysis tried to cloak the main reason because of the official Israeli line negating the existence of the Palestinians as a people.

The main cause of the uprising is the inherent contradiction between the occupier and the occupied, the oppressor and the oppressed. This contradiction can only be solved by two means: Either eliminating the existence of the people occupied, as took place with the native Americans, or ending the occupation. Lessons throughout history leave no place for surprises when mass revolts take place in countries that are occupied. What is taking place in occupied Palestine falls in the same category as what took place in France during the German occupation, in Algeria during the French occupation or to what is taking place in South Africa.

The uprising is qualitatively particular compared with previous uprisings of our people. Therefore we call it a landmark in the Palestinian national liberation movement. But at the same time, it would be wrong to look at what is taking place as the final battle with the Zionist enemy because this view will create illusions. Such illusions could lead not only to despair among our people but also to wrong political steps such as the creation of a temporary government in exile.

The particularity of this uprising is that it represents the first rehearsal for the battle of accomplishing Palestinian rights. But it is clear that many other rehearsals are needed with new factors involved specifically the elevation of the role of the frontstates in supporting our people, before accomplishing victory.

## THE UPRISING, A RESPONSE TO THE DECLINE IN OFFICIAL ARAB POLICIES

The uprising in occupied Palestine came at a time when the official Arab policies reached a new low after the Amman summit (see Arab summit article). Our Palestinian masses answered the attempt to downplay the role of the PLO by full adherence to the PLO which was manifested in the slogans of the Palestinian people and by refusing all other alternatives. The Palestinian people clearly stated their refusal of the Jordanian option and the plans of self administration.

This uprising was a clear response to the ideas that the Middle East problem is a problem of border disputes between the Arab countries and «Israel». It showed that the core of the problem is the question of the Palestinian national rights of return, self determination and an independent Palestinian state. The popular revolt shows that regardless of the attempts of reactionary Arab governments to push the Palestinian question into the background, this is still the central question in the Arab world. Our people in occupied Palestine through their continuing uprising were able to deal a severe blow to all forces who try to divide the Palestinian people. The uprising manifested the unity of our people in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the 1948 occupied territories and the Diaspora. This also showed the dialectical relationship between the unity of the PLO and the elevation of Palestinian mass struggle.

The Palestinian mass revolt in the occupied territories shows the Palestinian ability to adjust to the objective conditions surrounding their cause. After the exodus of the Palestinian revolution from Lebanon in 1982 and the difficult situation it still faces because of attempts of Arab governments to liquidate the PLO, our masses in the occupied territories, the revolution's first base, were able to revitalize our cause. The uprising also showed the importance of all forms of struggle, mass, armed, political and diplomatic.

Our masses in this uprising were able to ridicule the Israeli theory of permanent occupation. The Israelis were betting that the generation that grew up under occupation will adjust to life under Israeli rule. But what took place in Palestine proves that Palestinian youth in the occupied territories are just as determined in achieving the Palestinian inalienable rights. The uprising showed that even the supremacy of the Israeli army that was able to defeat several Arab armies could not defeat the aspirations of the Palestinian people.

## TASKS IN SUPPORTING THE UPRISING

The Palestinian contingents must show responsibility in supporting the uprising through solidifying the unity of the PLO which calls upon the adherence to the Algier PNC's resolutions and the rejoining of contingents still outside the framework of the PLO. The PLO leadership must facilitate all support to our masses in the occupied territories and must reconsider its working program and give priority to the issue of supporting our people in the occupied territories.

This uprising calls upon Syria, which remains the only frontstate in opposition to the imperialist-Zionist plans, to reassess its relations with the PLO and to materialize its support to the uprising by restoring the alliance with the sole legitimate representative of our people, the PLO. Patriotic Arab regimes have the task of elevating their support to our masses from a vocal to a concrete support through restoring the Arab steadfastness and confrontation front.

The Lebanese National Movement has the task of supporting the uprising first and foremost by forcing an end to the siege and war against the camps by the Amal movement and rebuilding the Lebanese-Palestinian alliance.

The task of the Egyptian masses and their nationalist forces is to act with all forms to support the uprising, demand the recalling of the Egyptian ambassador from the Zionist entity, closing down the Israeli embassy in Egypt and to fight against Camp David until abrogating it. The task of all forces of the Arab liberation movement is to unify their efforts against the imperialist-Zionist aggression, to act immediately with all forms and to initiate the formation of suitable organizations and frameworks to support our people's uprising. ●