

Executive Committee made the following statement on the matter: «The Executive Committee reviewed the NGO meeting... (and) examined the press distortion attempts of hostile press circles aimed at degrading the important results of this great international conference...» (editor's note).

The second topic is the contacts with Israeli officials. There are two points: The first is the message which Charlie Biton said that he delivered to the Israeli government from the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. I was deeply concerned about this... When I read the Executive Committee statement about it, I found that the controversy wasn't resolved... We are in a very sensitive stage that requires confronting every issue that disturbs Palestinian national unity or serves to discredit the Palestinian people's leading institutions. Therefore, I suggest that the final Central Council statement include a clear and specific denial of this matter.

The second point concerns contacts in occupied Palestine with Israeli of-

ficials (the meeting between Amirav of Shamir's Herut Party and Palestinian intellectuals, Sari Nusseibeh and Faisal Husseini). I suggest that a condemnation of such contacts be issued. The standard of patriotism for every Palestinian is determined by the extent of this person's adherence to the PLO and its national program which rejects such contacts and all forms of unilateral solutions with the Zionist enemy.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The third and final topic is the international conference. The PFLP considers the April PNC's resolution on this issue as being correct and clear. We demand exact adherence to it... There are several ways for the imperialist-Zionist enemy to falsify the concept of the international conference. This requires that we confront all attempts to divert the conference from its genuine conception.

For example, the PNC resolutions don't mention a joint Arab delegation.

Why should we then talk about this (as some Palestinian officials have done)? Some might say we should follow the developments, but who is to be included in this joint delegation? Surely it will include some countries that don't want to guarantee the Palestinian people's rights... In addition, the conference is not close at hand. Why are concessions being given in advance?

What are our existing weapons that we should hold on to, in order to change the balance of forces and enable the convention of a just international conference? Our most important weapon is consolidating national unity. The PLO's credibility should be restored; a clear political line should be followed; and our military effectiveness should be escalated.

Finally, I would like to express my satisfaction with the way the Executive Committee has dealt with the issues of Lebanon and the occupied territories... I would also like to stress that my speech was solely aimed at achieving progress and continuing this advance until victory.

Final Statement

Translation of WAFA communique issued on October 8, 1987, Tunis.

On October 5-7th, the PLO's Central Council convened in Tunisia, for its first session after the 18th PNC, held in April. The session was chaired by PNC President Abdul Hamid Al Sayih, and attended by PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat, PFLP General Secretary George Habash and members of the PLO Executive Committee.

As the session began, the Central Council, on behalf of the Palestinian masses, expressed deep appreciation to the Palestinian forces, leaders and masses who are steadfast in the camps and in occupied Palestine, and who struggled for the success of the national dialogue that culminated in the 18th PNC - the session of national unity, that constituted a major turning point in the history of the contemporary Palestinian revolution.

The first session of the Central Council, with its new composition, was a national occasion for the Palestinian nationalist forces, organizations and personalities, to meet and interact in a democratic atmosphere, showing deep political maturity, a high sense of responsibility and national commitment. This enabled the council to conduct a thorough and responsible study of the state of the PLO on the political, military and organizational levels, and a complete survey of the conditions of the Palestinian people living in occupied Palestine, the camps in Lebanon, the Arab host countries and in communities the world over.

The Central Council heard the political report delivered by

PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat. With analysis and details, this report described the Palestinian situation since the PNC's 18th session that embodied our people's determination to continue the struggle, confront all challenges and adhere to the PLO, on the road to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state. In view of this report and the discussion of the council members, the council declared the following:

1. OCCUPIED PALESTINE

The Central Council reviewed the racist Zionist practices against our people - repression, terror, deportations, arrests, expropriating land, demolishing homes, stealing water, building settlements and Judaizing holy sites. In addition, the council noted the Zionist settlers' calls for expelling our people from their homeland.

The Central Council studied the schemes the Zionist enemy continues to impose on our masses through the joint administration plan, aiming at creating alternatives to the PLO. The council called upon the international bodies to shoulder their responsibility in order to put an end to the occupation and its practices, which violate international law and basic human rights which have been affirmed by the UN.

The Central Council reaffirmed the necessity of drawing up a comprehensive program for confronting the Zionist policy, and raising this issue at the upcoming Arab summit and in the international organizations and institutions. The council ex-