

pressed respect and appreciation of the masses' continuous steadfastness in the face of the Israeli enemy, and hailed the continuous mass uprisings and the steadfastness of our heroes in the occupation authorities' prisons.

The Central Council called for drawing up practical plans to consolidate our masses' steadfastness, the unity of their organizations and institutions, and the interaction between (the struggle) inside and outside the occupied land. The council highly evaluated the formation of the National Work Committee for the Occupied Land.

2. PALESTINIAN CAMPS IN LEBANON

The Central Committee reviewed the painful, inhuman reality suffered by the Palestinian camps while confronting aggression and the siege that has been imposed for three years. The council called upon Arab and international bodies to focus their efforts on putting an end to the aggression and lifting the siege immediately, so that our people can maintain their homes, hospitals and schools, and have a free, respectable life.

The Central Council focused on the September 11th agreement signed in Sidon (between the Palestinians and the Lebanese Front for Unity and Liberation). The council reaffirmed the necessity of implementing this agreement according to the adopted text. The council considers this agreement as a new basis for Lebanese-Palestinian relations and the beginning of a new stage of brotherhood and love, and directing all efforts and guns against the Zionist occupation in South Lebanon.

The Central Council holds in high esteem the Executive Committee's decision to form the Palestinian National Work Leadership in Lebanon, including all the Palestinian forces and organizations, and the Military Work leadership. The council considered these two bodies as a living manifestation of the strength of Palestinian national unity that was crystallized in the 18th PNC session.

3. THE POLITICAL SITUATION

A. THE EXTRAORDINARY ARAB SUMMIT IN AMMAN

The Central Council welcomed the Arab foreign ministers' decision to convene an Arab summit in Amman in November, as an expression of urgent national necessity. This is especially true since our nation is suffering from division and secondary conflicts at a time when imperialist-Zionist aggression is escalating in order to attack the steadfast positions in our nation, one by one.

The Central Council confirmed that the restoration of Arab solidarity is one of the priorities of national action. The council also confirmed that the present deterioration in the Arab situation necessitates the restabilization of the nationalist stands that have been expressed in the consecutive Arab summits concerning the Palestinian question. These stands expressed firm national commitment to the Palestinian people, their organization (the PLO) and their inalienable national rights - the right to return, self-determination and the establishment of an independent state. The council called upon the Executive Committee to concentrate its efforts on achieving such restabilization.

B. IRAQ—IRAN WAR

The Central Council has been following with concern the dangerous deterioration in the Gulf region, due to the continuing Iraq-Iran war and the amassing of the US fleet. The council called on Iran to stop the war immediately and abide by Security Council resolution 598. The council called on Iraq to declare its willingness to resolve differences by peaceful means, in order for peace and amity to prevail, especially after Iraq has declared its acceptance of all peace initiatives, including the international resolution (598). The council believes that the continuation of this war only benefits the colonialist, imperialist and Zionist forces, while causing extreme harm to the Palestinian cause.

C. INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE

The Central Council studied the initiatives, recommendations and international resolutions concerning an international peace conference on the Middle East. The council called on the Executive Committee to concentrate its efforts and contacts for the holding of a fully empowered conference as advocated by the UN, the non-aligned summit, the African summit, the Arab summit, the socialist countries, the EEC and all friendly countries.

The Central Council confirmed the necessity of unified Arab work to support the formula of an active international conference under UN auspices with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and all parties involved in the conflict, including the PLO, on an equal footing, in order to fulfill the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people - the right to return, self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on their national soil with Jerusalem as its capital.

The Central Council rejected the Israeli and US attempts to devoid the international conference of its essence, transforming it into an umbrella for bilateral deals.

4. THE PLO'S ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The Central Council reviewed the Executive Committee's sincere efforts to implement the PNC resolutions on consolidating the PLO's relations with fraternal Arab countries. The council holds in high esteem these efforts to achieve Arab solidarity directed against imperialism and Zionism.

The Central Council condemned the US's continuous hostile positions against the PLO, the most recent of which was the closure of the PLO Information Office in Washington D.C. The council considered this to be only one of a chain of failed attempts to obscure the truth from the American public.

The Central Council saluted the principled positions of the friendly socialist countries, the non-aligned countries, the Islamic and African countries, and all liberation movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The council sent congratulations and greetings to the Soviet Union on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the great October Revolution. At the end of the session, the Central Council sent greetings to the president, government and people of Tunisia, thanking them for their hospitality.