

decisions in this regard: Condemning Israeli oppression; calling for international sanctions against 'Israel'; providing material and moral support to the Palestinian people; starting an international media campaign to expose the true nature of 'Israel'; calling on the UN Security Council to adopt resolutions to end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab land; and putting the Arab League's Secretary General in charge of gathering information on Israeli human rights violations. The council also formed a seven-state committee, composed of foreign ministers, the responsible of the PLO's Political Department and the Arab League's General Secretary, to draw up a plan for an Arab initiative.

There is no doubt that the council's resolutions expressed the will of the Arab masses and their nationalist forces, who imposed this position on their respective governments. The Arab governments' new position is the opposite of that taken exactly two months earlier, in the Amman Summit. The uprising forced the Arab governments to promise not only moral, but material support.

Although these resolutions are positive, as of yet there is no proof that any of them has been implemented. So far, moral support from the public opinion and progressive governments in other parts of the world has been more effective than the support given by the Arab governments. While one resolution of the foreign ministers' council clearly emphasized «mobilising the Arab popular forces to support the uprising», this was not materialized in the form of demonstrations and rallies in many Arab countries. On the contrary, in several instances, the authorities fired on Arab citizens who attempted to demonstrate peacefully. Moreover, while 'Israel' strove to suppress the uprising with violence, several Arab regimes, particularly those in Egypt and Jordan, engaged themselves in political maneuvers at the US's behest, attempting to abort the uprising.

SUPPRESSING THE POPULAR WILL — JORDAN

In Jordan, the authorities repressed all attempts by the people to express

support to the uprising. Moreover, the intelligence services arrested scores of nationalists and trade unionists. On December 31st, 28 people were arrested, including Hamdi Matar, member of the Palestinian National Council and of the PFLP's Politbureau. In the following days, more patriots were arrested, including many Jordanian and Palestinian writers and journalists. Reports from Jordan say that the security forces are deployed on all the main roads and in the Palestinian camps to abort any mass movement. The tense atmosphere created by the security forces is comparable to that which prevailed immediately after the 1970 massacre of Palestinians in Jordan (Black September).

Government agents are spread everywhere to sabotage mass gatherings, such as the rally that took place in the professional and trade unions' headquarters on Dec. 23rd, when agents created disorder, ejecting the speaker from the stage and dispersing the audience. The authorities also suppressed a demonstration in the Palestinian camp, Baqa'a, on Dec. 25th, and prevented the 1,500 demonstrators from reaching the main street outside the camp.

During the solidarity week that commenced on Jan. 23rd, the intelligence forces interfered to guarantee the failure of all the planned events. On Jan. 24th, people gathered at midnight to march in a demonstration, but the intelligence forces attacked them and arrested many. Despite the authorities' threats, hundreds of people marched through the streets of Amman and the city of Zarqa'a.

The uprising has proven that our people reject all King Hussein's plans such as joint Israeli—Jordanian administration and «improving the quality of life» (for Palestinians under the 1967 occupation). The uprising has also foiled King Hussein's attempts to usurp the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people. It has served as a popular referendum, confirming that the Palestinian people rally around the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. They are struggling for the PLO's program of repatriation, self-determination and an independent Palestinian state, which was disregarded by the king.

As the uprising escalates, King Hussein's crisis gets deeper. He is no longer capable of going forward towards direct negotiations with 'Israel'. At the same time, he is unable to persuade the US and 'Israel' to accept an international conference with enough substance to provide a cover for direct negotiations. For this reason, he toured the West European countries to convince them to pressure their allies in Washington and Tel Aviv to accept such an international framework for direct negotiations. Incidentally, the Jordanian regime has again begun to speak about the PLO's participation in an international conference, preconditioned on the PLO's acceptance of UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, renouncing «violence» and agreeing to discuss the Palestinian problem in all its aspects, i.e., that the solution arrived at be a final one.

King Hussein has recently made statements of willingness to resume relations with the PLO, based on the February, 1985 Amman accord, after having himself halted coordination with the PLO in February 1986. Clearly this position came about as a result of the uprising that promoted the PLO's position locally and internationally.

EGYPT

As in Jordan, demonstrations broke out in Egypt in support of the uprising, and were oppressed by the security forces. In Cairo, hundreds of students demonstrated at universities and Al Azhar mosque, but the central security forces prevented them from marching in the streets. Several students were arrested on campus. The demonstrators raised slogans in support of the uprising, and demanded that their government break relations with 'Israel' and expel the Israeli ambassador in Cairo. On Dec. 30th, a group of Egyptian nationalist lawyers burned the Israeli flag in a massive rally outside the Lawyers' Guild headquarters in Cairo.

On Jan. 5th, thousands of Ain Shams university students clashed with riot police. The demonstrators were commemorating the anniversary of the martyrdom of Suleiman Khater, who assassinated Israeli tourists in the Sinai in October 1985, and died under torture ►