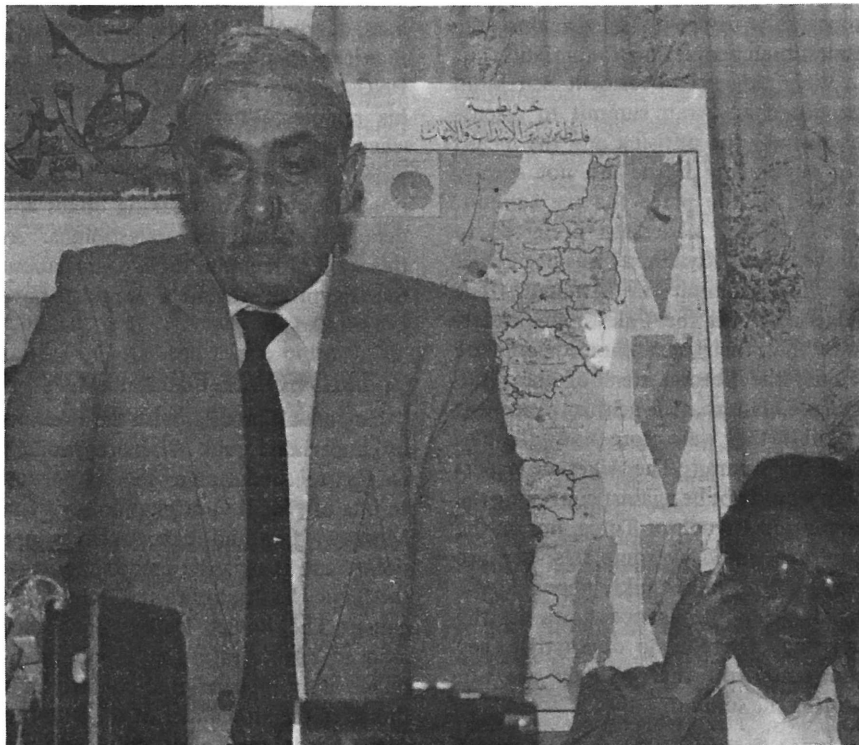


PFLP Press Conference

On April 27th, Comrade George Habash, General Secretary of the PFLP, held a press conference in Damascus, right after the beginning of the reconciliation between the Syrian government and the Fatah Central Committee. A number of other current topics were addressed as well.



1. OUR DUTIES TOWARDS THE UPRISING

In this uprising that has now been going on for four months, our masses are expressing, by all means at their disposal, their determination to achieve the national goals of freedom and independence, specifically an independent Palestinian state.

Concerning the position of the enemy camp, 'Israel' is still insisting on trying to suppress the uprising, using all methods: administrative detention, imprisonment, curfews, the breaking of bones, burying people alive, economic sanctions, deportation and others. The US administration, on the other hand, claims that it is seeking a solution, but still it ignores the PLO and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The Arab puppet regimes, particularly in Egypt and Jordan, are trying to market the US initiative by convincing the PLO to consent to the US

plan without itself really participating, and without mention of the Palestinian people's national rights.

In the light of all this, the PLO leadership should take a clear, decisive political stand that would contribute to continuation of the uprising and prevent its being aborted. The PLO leadership should not take any position that would elicit confusion in the ranks of the Palestinian people. The PLO should aim first and foremost at ending the occupation. To this end, international forces should enter the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as part of preparations for a fully empowered international conference that would fulfill the national rights of the Palestinian people to repatriation, self-determination and an independent Palestinian state.

Just like his other visits, the fourth trip of Schultz to the area aims at creating confusion among the Palestinian people, and foiling the uprising.

The PLO should confront these aims with a clear, firm position.

On the Palestinian level, the PLO leadership is called upon to seriously discuss the convening of the PNC in the coming period. This for several reasons: First, the PNC's internal rules and regulations specify that it should convene annually, and it has been more than a year since the last PNC in Algiers. Second, the convening of the PNC would consolidate Palestinian national unity, by giving those organizations that are now outside the PLO the chance to reenter. Third, and most important, the convening of the PNC would give a serious opportunity for reforming and revolutionizing the PLO's condition, so that it becomes the real instrument for mobilizing all the Palestinian masses. In this way, the PLO could function at the same level as the uprising, and meet its requirements.

The most appropriate place to convene the PNC is Damascus, but the issue of time and place is usually decided by the PLO's leading bodies, specifically the Executive Committee and the PNC Presidium, in addition to the general secretaries of the Palestinian resistance organizations.

After Yasir Arafat met with Syrian President Assad, the Palestinian leadership met to discuss the steps to be taken to reopen the inter-Palestinian dialogue (aimed at the remaining Palestinian organizations rejoining the PLO). The Palestinian leadership will initiate a meeting with Al Saiqa, PFLP—General Command and the Popular Struggle Front. Second, a PLO delegation will meet with a delegation of these organizations. I call attention to the fact that the PLO had previously formed a committee, headed by the martyr Abu Jihad, to follow up the issue of all organizations that did not attend the last PNC rejoining the PLO. (This committee is now headed by PLO Executive Committee member Farouk Qaddoumi.)

2. PALESTINIAN—SYRIAN RELATIONS

The PLO, Syria and all the Arab nationalist forces, regimes and movements should notice the reaction of the enemy camp to the Palestinian-Syrian reconciliation. This is not a minor event; rather it is the first step in rehabilitating the Arab chain of support to our masses in the occupied territories and the uprising. Both the Jor-▶