

sion. Accordingly, brother Arafat broke into the session, demanding whether they really intended to discuss support to the Palestinian uprising in the absence of the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. Arafat threatened to withdraw from the summit if they continued in this way. The atmosphere became tense again, and the final meeting was postponed for long hours until a series of bilateral discussions resulted in a decision to support the uprising in defined forms and amounts.

Concerning how the support should be channeled, the conflict was between the PLO and Jordan. The Jordanian monarchy tried to have a say in this matter, but ultimately a decision was reached to channel the support through the PLO and concerned international institutions. This round of the summit was settled in favor of the Palestinian delegation.

Throughout the entire summit, the Algerian leadership worked hard to see that no questions unrelated to the uprising could be interjected to the detriment of support to the Palestinian people. The Algerians prevented the summit from drowning in side issues by discussing other matters with each Arab delegation alone. Thus, the final statement concentrated on issues that were crucial to supporting the uprising and alluded only briefly to other matters. However, it is noteworthy that for the first time the Arab leaders arrived at a united support to Libya against the US imperialist attacks it has faced.

TAKING STOCK

The extraordinary Arab summit in Algiers culminated in a number of positive resolutions that can truly be considered a victory for the Palestinian people and their just cause and struggle. These results could only have occurred under the impact of the uprising, and in the main the summit was a new victory for the masses struggling against occupation. However, the fact that Schultz's plan was not explicitly rejected means that conflict will continue, despite the successes of this round.

The Palestinian victory in Algiers is most obvious when compared to the preceding summit in Amman, when

King Hussein succeeded in marginalizing the Palestinian cause. In contrast, the PLO played a major role in Algiers in the adoption of the following positive resolutions:

1. Reasserting the Rabat Summit resolution that recognized the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.
2. Helping the Palestinian people to realize their legitimate national rights, first and foremost their rights to repatriation, self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on their national soil, with Jerusalem as its capital and under the PLO's leadership.
3. The necessity of convening an international conference attended by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, and with the PLO participating on an equal footing with the other parties.
4. Supporting the uprising in the occupied territories by all means.

In Algiers, the PLO scored an undivided success in the conflict between the just Palestinian cause and the so-called Jordanian option. However, one cannot overlook the fact that the pro-US Arab regimes left some marks on the work of the summit, chiefly by blocking explicit rejection of the Schultz plan, despite Palestinian efforts to obtain such a clear rejection. The summit also did not adopt any effective measures to counter US policy. It

would have been fitting for the Arab regimes to close US information bureaus in their countries, in response to the closure of the PLO offices in the US.

Moreover, although there was agreement on the necessity of convening an international conference with full authority, the clause «full authority» was not included in the final statement. This can only be understood as leaving the door open to other suggestions concerning the peace process in the Middle East.

These points will remain the subjects of conflict between the Palestinians and progressive Arabs on the one hand, and the reactionaries on the other. In spite of these shortcomings, however, the summit was predominantly positive, especially when compared to previous summits. It was to the favor of the uprising's demands. The main thing now is to see that these positive resolutions are implemented and don't form the ranks of neglected papers in the Arab League's headquarters.

As the uprising was the essential cause of the positive outcome of this summit, implementing its resolutions and confronting the reactionaries' countermeasures require consolidation of the alliance between the PLO and the Arab nationalist and progressive regimes, to create a supportive environment for the uprising's continuation. ●

Jordan

Why the Regime Fears the Masses

The Jordanian and Palestinian masses in Jordan have repeatedly expressed support to the uprising in the occupied territories, and protested Israeli repression and the US and Arab moves to abort the Palestinian popular revolt. The Jordanian regime, for its part, has done all in its power to stifle the voice of the masses.

The Jordanian regime has mobilized its security forces, police, army and intelligence service to suppress any mass activities that would expose the falsity of its own professed sympathy for the uprising, which the official media attempts to portray. At the end of December, there was a massive arrest

campaign; approximately thirty patriots were detained, including PNC and PFLP Politbureau members, Azmi Al Khawaja and Hamdi Matar. Since then, the Committee for the Defense of Democratic Freedoms in Jordan has reported that, as of mid-April, eleven