

MOSCOW

From September 6th to 9th, a PFLP delegation paid an official visit to Moscow on the invitation of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee.

The PFLP delegation was headed by Comrade George Habash, general secretary; Abu Maher Yamani, Politbureau member and head of the political relations department; and Omar Shahada, Central Committee member. The delegation held a series of meetings with Comrade Korninka, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first deputy of the international relations department of the Central Committee; Comrade Bulyakov, head of the Mideast department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Comrade Kapita, head of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee.

The talks focused on the most prominent issues on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels, in particular the important developments in the Palestinian national struggle led by the PLO. Both parties expressed great appreciation of the heroism of the Palestinian people, their steadfastness against all the Zionists' repressive measures and their determination to

continue the uprising until the achievement of their goals.

Both parties condemned the policy of repression and terrorism being practiced by the occupation authorities against the Palestinian masses. In this light, the PFLP delegation confirmed the necessity of international protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. Such international protection would be supervised by UN troops for an interim period, in preparation for convening a fully empowered international conference.

The Soviets confirmed their support for the heroic and just struggle of the Palestinian people, their uprising and their national goals of self-determination and the establishment of an independent state under the leadership of the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative. The PFLP delegation expressed deep gratitude to the Soviet leadership and people for their support to the struggle of the Palestinian people and the uprising

On September 8th, Comrade George Habash held a press conference at the Moscow headquarters of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, which was attended by many Soviet and foreign journalists. The journalists' questions concentrated on the uprising and the Palestinian options after the Jordanian regime's measures. Concerning how the PLO will face the new situation, Comrade George Habash said that the Executive Committee of the PLO has held a series of meetings and will hold more in order to define its response towards the recent situation. The Executive Committee's proposal will be presented at the coming session of the PNC. He explained the options open to the PLO.

Concerning the Soviet stand on these options, Comrade George Habash said, «We had the feeling that the Soviet comrades are thinking and trying to evaluate with us the positive and negative points of each of these options... They are interested in maximal unity of the Palestinian and Arab stand... Through our historic relations with the Soviet comrades, we feel that they are leaving the final decision to us... They know that our cause is just; in spite of the disagreement with their viewpoints, they are supporting us.» ●

Romania

In response to an official invitation from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Romania, a PFLP delegation visited Bucharest from June 28th until July 5th.

The PFLP delegation was headed by General Secretary George Habash, and included Politbureau member Abu Maher Yamani and Central Committee members Taysir Qubaa and Tareq Hussein. The delegation had a series of important talks with Romanian party and state officials, covering issues of mutual interest on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels. Also discussed were ways to consolidate the bilateral relations between the Romanian Communist Party and the PFLP.

MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU

The delegation's most important meeting was that with President Ceausescu, which was also attended by comrade Jon Stiwan, member of the

Political Executive Committee of the Romanian Communist Party, responsible for foreign relations. President Ceausescu warmly welcomed the PFLP delegation and expressed his readiness to hear their opinions. Dr. Habash then expressed appreciation of Romania's support to the Palestinian cause. He went on to analyze the causes and aims of the current uprising in occupied Palestine, and the ways of maximizing its political results. He confirmed that the uprising, while raising the banner of independence and freedom, aims at the withdrawal of the occupation forces and securing the presence of international forces in the occupied territories, as a step towards achieving the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to repatriation, self-

determination and an independent state. Dr. Habash stressed that a just solution can be found through a fully empowered international conference.

For his part, President Ceausescu showed great interest in the question of maximizing the political effects of the uprising. He welcomed the results of the Algiers Summit and asserted the necessity of convening an international conference and the establishment of a Palestinian state. In his view, the main conclusion to be drawn from the uprising is that the Palestinian people want to rid themselves of the occupation as soon as possible. He stressed the importance of the PLO's unity, as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and reiterated Romania's support to the Palestinian cause. In conclusion, the two parties expressed satisfaction with the development of their bilateral relations and their desire to further consolidate them. ●