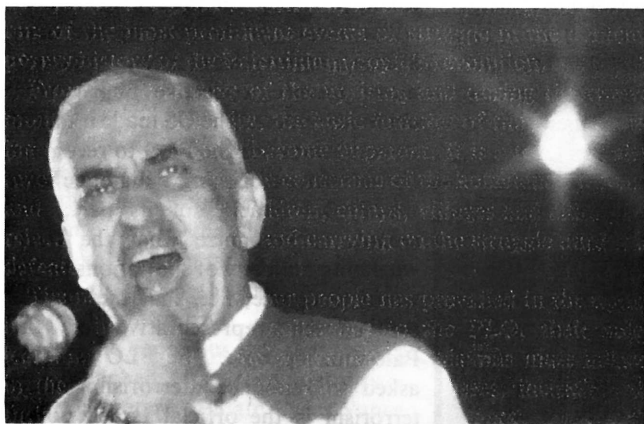


# PFLP 21st Anniversary

On December 2, 1988, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine celebrated the first anniversary of the intifada and the 21st anniversary of its own establishment at a mass rally in Yarmouk Camp, Damascus. Addressing the over 5,000 in attendance were Politbureau member Abdullah Shatfeh, the South Yemeni Ambassador to Syria; George Hawi, General Secretary of the Lebanese Communist Party; Jesus Barriero, the Cuban Ambassador to Syria; and the keynote speaker, Dr. George Habash, General Secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Also in attendance at the four hour program were Nayef Hawatmeh, General Secretary of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and representatives of the PFLP-General Command, Palestinian Struggle Front, Palestinian Communist Party, Palestinian Liberation Front, Saika and the Syrian Communist Party. Below is the speech of Dr. George Habash.

## Speech of Comrade Habash



Sisters and brothers, comrades and guests:

We meet today on the occasion of the first anniversary of our people's great uprising and the 21st anniversary of the establishment of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. We meet to celebrate the announcement of the independent Palestinian state. Based on the fact that the PFLP constitutes a major organization in the United National Leadership, we announce to our Arab masses that the PFLP will work to continue the uprising, to deepen, escalate and expand it. We will work towards achieving its political slogans on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels until the uprising, through the masses' struggle and sacrifices, succeeds in achieving freedom and independence. In my capacity as General Secretary, it is my obligation to announce to the Palestinian masses, wherever they may be, and to the Arab masses... that the PFLP will remain true to its political line. The main point in this line is the PFLP's understanding of the Zionist entity, considering its major feature to be colonialism. We will fight year after year, generation after generation, until we rid all Palestinian and Arab land of it.

We also meet to celebrate the announcement of the independent Palestinian state. The PFLP realizes the difference between the announcement of this state and its establishment. I announce in the name of the PFLP that we will build the bridge with our bodies to span the distance between the dream of announcing the state and the reality of establishing it on the land of Palestine.

Comrades, the uprising of our people in Palestine has great meaning and repercussions. I know very well that you are here today to listen to what occurred at the PNC - how the PFLP understands the Declaration of Independence and the political statement that was issued; what we suffered from the policy of political concessions; and why we refused UN resolutions 242 and 338. Still, allow me to speak briefly about the repercussions and great meaning of our people's uprising in the occupied territories. The PFLP Central Committee said in its last session before the PNC, that the uprising represents a new stage in the Palestinian national struggle and it could become a new stage in the entire Arab national struggle.

### FEATURES OF THE UPRISING... THE NEW STAGE

What do we mean by this? What is this stage concretely? We must know this in order to understand it, so that our masses understand it and all struggle for it. We have begun to live in a new stage that has its own specific features. For the first time, the central burden of confronting the Zionist plan has been transferred to our masses inside Palestine. You might say such talk is not new. This is correct theoretically, and perhaps other organizations wrote that our masses in Palestine are the center. But what was happening on the ground in the days of the armed struggle trend in Jordan and Lebanon? What was happening was that the central movement was taking place from outside, due to Palestinian presence outside of Palestine. Now, for the first time since 1948... the 40% of our masses who are inside Palestine are the ones who are in the forefront confronting the Zionist plan. This is the first new feature.

The second feature: The Palestinian struggle against the Zionist plan was always an integral part of the Arab-Zionist struggle, and this principle must be preserved. This was what happened in the 1950's during the Suez War, and in the 1960's during the June War, as well as in the 1970's during the October War. The main form of the struggle was the Arab-Zionist struggle, marginally encompassing the Palestinian-Zionist struggle. Now, for the first time in the 40 years of this struggle, the Palestinian appears to say, «I am the center and the essence of this struggle, and will remain so.» Without meaning to detract in any way from our understanding of the pan-Arab