

DEMOCRATIC PALESTINE

PLO accepted resolution 242, but the PFLP did not agree on this. The occupation tried to exploit this, but the response of the people in the occupied territories was clear and conclusive. It was clear that they will continue the struggle against the occupation together, meanwhile understanding these differences on the political level, without that detracting from unity in struggle.

The main threat at this stage is the Shamir plan for liquidating the uprising and confusing world public opinion. The Israeli government wants the world to think that it is considering a political solution. Meanwhile, this plan was coupled with bloody repression in many forms: outright killing, collective arrests and detentions, expelling activists, starvation and economic siege.

The United National Leadership and all our people have strongly rejected this scheme, because it does not take into consideration our goals of repatriation, self-determination and the independent state. This plan is only a new embellishment of Camp David and the autonomy plan.

I would also like to emphasize that the open and secret meetings that have taken place between prominent Palestinians and Zionists, officials or otherwise, constitute a threat to the unity of the Palestinian people and the PLO, and to the interim program. The political struggle is part of our struggle as a whole. We must take a clear position against these meetings, because they aim at creating an alternative leadership to the PLO in the occupied territories. This has been confirmed in the calls of the United National Leadership.

Regarding support to the uprising from outside, there is financial support, but the problem is one of organization and distribution. The PLO has the principal responsibility in this field. Support is badly needed in view of the horrible condi-

tions of life for the people under occupation. So far, there are 99,000 injured, just to give one indication of the need. The PLO, including all the Palestinian organizations, should organize the delivery of support to all sectors of the masses, knowing all the restrictions Israel imposes to try and stop money from coming in.

The Arab regimes are another factor in this problem. Many of them have not provided the financial support as was decided at the Algiers Summit. It is the PLO's duty to urge the Arab countries to provide support, and to make sure the money is in good hands and is well distributed. There are special committees in the occupied territories in charge of this process. They channel funds to the different societies and cooperatives, and are involved in creating projects aimed at improving the conditions of the people.

How do you view Hamas's role in relation to the uprising?

Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement) is the outgrowth of the Muslim Brotherhood and the religious trend in general. After the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, their position was as if there was no occupation and no need to struggle against it. Instead of working to attain our rights, this trend was attacking the national movement and the political organizations. However, at the beginning of the uprising, Hamas was formed and it began to issue statements and be involved. It has called for strikes in contradiction to the program set out in the calls of the United National Leadership, thus creating confusion. This imposed on the Palestinian nationalist organizations the important task of strengthening their own united work in order that all resistance be organized within the

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