

program even failed to specify that the Palestinian section of the Camp David accords has totally failed.

These points make us think that although there may have been extensive debate at Fatah's conference, the end result was a set of compromises that will basically allow the previous policy to continue, perhaps with considerable modifications.

Although we have criticism of the program, chiefly concerning the lack of linkage between strategic and interim tasks, it is positive that Fatah maintained its nationalist principles concerning many issues which have importance for the Palestinian struggle. The spirit of the intifada was strongly felt at the conference, and it is to the intifada that the main credit goes for the positive aspects of the program.

NO RETREAT FROM THE INTERIM PROGRAM

The conference confirmed the Palestinian people's historical rights in their homeland, Palestine's belonging to the Arab nation, and the unity of the Palestinian people everywhere. It stressed that the Zionist invasion of Palestine aimed to eliminate the Palestinian people and their civilization, and that the founding of the settler-colonial Zionist entity was part of imperialism's plan to control the resources of the Arab nation and keep it within its sphere of influence.

The conference confirmed that: «There will be no peace, no settlement and no security in the Middle East without the recognition of the Palesti-

nians' right to self-determination and national independence.» The conference mandated Fatah's Revolutionary Council to form a special committee for confronting Zionist immigration to our homeland. This decision is very important. However, the initiative to form such a committee should come from the PLO, whereby all Palestinian organizations would take part, as this would serve the purpose of unifying Palestinian efforts.

The conference was very clear concerning the national principles for the current stage. It stressed Palestinian national unity and the independence of Palestinian decision-making as basic preconditions for the intifada and for achieving the Palestinian goals of repatriation, self-determination and the

