
PFLP Anniversary Celebration

On the fourteenth of December, 1989, about ten thousand people gathered at the Palestine hall in Yarmuk camp in a festive atmosphere amidst an array of Palestinian flags and banners to celebrate the twenty-second anniversary of the founding of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the second anniversary of the intifada.

Present were representatives from the Palestinian resistance movement, the socialist countries, represented by

Cuba, Arab and international movements and the Syrian Baath Party.

Solidarity speeches were delivered by representatives from the Arab Socialist Baath Party, the Lebanese National Resistance Front, North and South Yemen, and the Socialist Countries.

The keynote speech was delivered by Comrade George Habash, the general secretary of the PFLP, the following are excerpts:

Habash began his speech by «conveying his greetings and the greetings of all those attending, to the heroic Palestinian people in Palestine, to the «children of the stones», to the people in the steadfast city of Beit Sahur, and Gaza, to the «Red Eagles» and «Black Panthers» in Nablus, to Palestinian workers, peasants, merchants, students, in every city, town, village, and camp in Palestine, to all those heroes who have redeemed to the Arab peoples their dignity and self-esteem, which was squandered by Sadat and others who succumbed to the Zionist onslaught, and to imperialism.

«We join hands with these militants, and raise together the banner of freedom, and march together with firm determination until the attainment of the goal and slogan which was raised two years ago--the slogan of «freedom and independence», and establish an independent sovereign state in Palestine, which would forge the beginning of a profound historical march encompassing the entire Arab nation.

Such events (anniversary celebrations) are opportunities to visualize with clarity the political situation which would enable us to determine a correct and precise political line, as well as the tasks, in order to utilize our full potential and mobilize our resources to carry out these tasks.

Now two years since the intifada began, how do we assess the intifada during these first two years? What are the obstacles which stand in the way of the establishment of a Palestinian state, and the achievement of self-determination and the right of return? What lessons can we draw so far, and specifically during the last year after the nineteenth Palestine National Council meeting? What are the direct tasks? What are the short-term tasks? What are the long-term tasks?»

The intifada unmasked the true nature of Zionism

In answering these questions, Habash indicated the «historical gains made by the intifada whereas the world has now come to know the true nature of Israel and Zionism, as well as the situation of the Palestinians, and the fact that any solution to the Middle East crisis cannot ignore the Palestine question...the intifada has compelled the Jordanian regime to sever its ties with the Palestinian West Bank,

which put the Israeli Labor party and the US administration before a new reality--only the Palestinians can speak about the future of the Palestinian occupied territories...We can summarize the many and important gains made by the intifada, in that it has transcended the slogan of the Palestinian state from the historical viability to the realistic feasibility...however it is also our duty in addition to recognizing the gains, to also point out the obstacles before the realization of the slogan-freedom and independence.

We should keep in mind that the long road still ahead is more arduous, when the PFLP said that the Palestinian state has become a realistic possibility, we were careful not to give the masses false hope. When we made that declaration, it was with the understanding that this entails a lot of hard work and a program to guide this work in the coming years, in order to bridge the gap between declaring independence and the establishment of a Palestinian state in Palestine.»

Habash alluded to Israel's intransigence, «No to recognizing the PLO, no to a Palestinian state, no to self-determination...Yes to establishing more Israeli settlements...» and the official US policy reflected in the strategic alliance with Israel and the US's refusal to take any step towards a settlement without Israeli approval.

Convening a new PNC

He added by saying, «In light of this dangerous and precarious stage, and in order for the PLO leadership not to give anymore gratuitous concessions, we in the PFLP call for the convening of a new Palestine National Council meeting in order to appraise the developments since the convening of the last PNC and the present critical stage, and to draw lessons so that this twentieth PNC will advance the intifada.

...We are in a dire need for such an assessment which should be conducted on the basis of consolidating the intifada and bolstering national unity. We should concurrently review the PLO's strategy during this period, and in particular in the diplomatic arena which constitutes the core of its activity. Although we in the PFLP feel that diplomatic