

and political work is important, however, we feel that it is not and should not be pivotal.

Changing the balance of forces

...Our central task should be to induce a change in the balance of power on the local and regional levels which would compel Israel to change its stance, as was the case in the wake of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982 when the Israeli army was forced to withdraw from Southern Lebanon as a result of the incessant struggle of the Lebanese National Resistance Front.

Affecting such a change in the balance of power can come about through first and foremost the continuation, anchoring and intensifying of the intifada through national unity, whereby the Palestinian people can confront the occupation forces as one...despite our harsh criticism of the present strategy of the PLO leadership, and our fear of the consequences of this strategy, we will nevertheless remain within the framework of the PLO and amidst our masses.

When we say intensifying the intifada we mean the United National Leadership (UNL), to safeguard it, and to give it the prerogative to lead the struggle of our people in the occupied territories, this leadership which exists in every city, town, village, and camp, with its various committees in every neighborhood, The UNL should be the umbrella which encompasses all of the unions, the unified workers union, the unified students union, the unified women's union...etc...a solution should be reached regarding the organizations which still remain outside the framework of the UNL including HAMAS.

Intensifying the intifada also means inflicting economic losses on the enemy, whereby the occupation will become a losing enterprise, although we should not expect Israel to change its strategy vis-a-vis the occupied territories as a result of economic losses, Israel was forced to change its strategy in Lebanon after suffering human losses which it could not sustain. I don't want to be misunderstood, for I do not agree with transforming the intifada into armed warfare because this will give Israel the pretext to commit mass genocide against the Palestinian people. On the other hand this does not negate armed struggle but complements it, which brings us to the subject of opening the borders of Arab countries surrounding Palestine to the Palestinian resistance.»

Habash cited the important role played by the Palestinians in Israel and Israeli democratic forces, in supporting the intifada, and discussed at length the issue of democratic reforms within the PLO, «Palestinians in diaspora constitute an immense force which could provide more support to the intifada on the political, military, informational, and financial levels. The PFLP will emphasize this issue in the upcoming PNC and for the first time will give the issue of mass participation precedence over the political issue.»

Regarding the prevalent political climate in the Arab world he said that «this situation is not eternal, we should look forward to the future,» and praised the developments in Jordan, namely the parliamentary elections which were

conducted in early November as a step forward which will undoubtedly have a positive effect on the intifada.

He warned Mubarak from continuing his conspiring against the Palestinian resistance, and stressed the importance of restoring the Palestinian-Syrian alliance, and called on the leadership of the PLO to give this issue priority since Syria is an Arab country which borders Palestine and whose own territory is occupied by Israel, this constitutes an objective basis for an alliance.

He also emphasized the issue of solidarity and alliance with the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, as well as the Islamic resistance.

Habash reiterated the PFLP's view vis-a-vis a solution to the Palestinian question through a fully-empowered international peace conference, «where we can realize the right of return, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state.»

Habash concluded his speech by saluting «the Palestinian masses and the intifada on its second anniversary, the martyrs, the detainees in Israeli and Arab jails, the wounded, the United National Leadership, the popular committees, the strike forces, the Palestinians in the 1948 territories, and throughout the diaspora, Palestinian militants in resistance, the Syrian masses in the occupied Golan Heights, the militants in the Lebanese National Resistance, the Arab masses, the Arab National Liberation movement, the national liberation movements throughout the world, the people in the socialist countries, the peace movement, and progressive forces throughout the world, and to the true revolutionary and internationalist, comrade Fidel Castro.»

The first solidarity message was delivered by Ahmed Durgham, member of the national leadership of the Arab Socialist Baath Party (Syria).

Durgham began his message by saluting the PFLP on its 22nd anniversary, and the intifada on its second anniversary. «On the 22nd anniversary of the founding of the PFLP, the intifada enters its third year, stronger than ever...it is indeed a miracle to see unarmed young people challenging a fascist military institution.»

Durgham added, «We struggle for a just and comprehensive peace which would guarantee liberation of the occupied land, legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, including the right of return, self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO.»

Durgham was followed by comrade Mohamad Shatfa, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen's ambassador to Syria. Speaking on behalf of both PDRY and North Yemen, comrade Shatfa began his solidarity message by congratulating the PFLP on its 22nd anniversary adding that «the emergence of the PFLP in 1967 has brought about an important and prominent transformation in the course of the Palestinian national struggle, gaining the respect and admiration of all nationalists and militants. The PFLP has played a historically critical role in consolidating Palestinian national unity within the PLO and in consolidating the PLO's anti-Zionist and anti-imperialist struggle, as well as