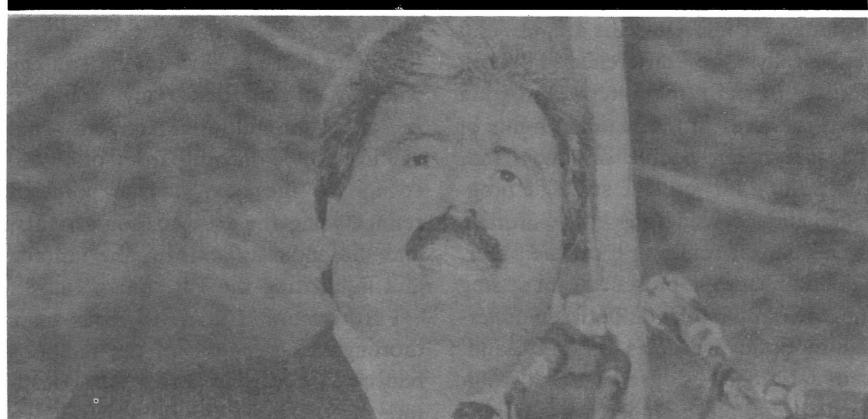


# The Arab Situation and the Intifada

This article was written by George Hawi, general secretary of the Lebanese Communist Party, on the occasion of the PFLP's 22nd anniversary.



The 22nd anniversary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine occurs as the glorious intifada is entering its third year - more consolidated, broader and more determined. The convergence of the two events is not a coincidence, for the celebration of the PFLP's 20th anniversary highlighted one of the main factors that led to the outbreak of the uprising. It is not true that the intifada was born an orphan; that nobody is behind it; that it resulted from objective conditions alone, or is purely an expression of the masses' spontaneous will to confront the occupation and achieve independence. The subjective factor played an active role in paving the way for the intifada, specifically the action of the organized militant forces among the masses, and the various methods of struggle they adopted. The PFLP is one of the forces of the Palestinian revolution and the PLO, which partook in this process, along with all the forces, parties and mass organizations that reject occupation. All these forces contributed to the outbreak of the intifada.

It has been said that the uprising is the movement of the whole people and

that it is greater than the organizations combined. And why not? This does not belittle the role of the forces of the revolution. On the contrary, the role of the organization becomes most prominent when it operates not in isolation, but as an organizer of the masses' struggle - stimulating their potentials and igniting their capabilities. The accumulation of struggles is not a mere quantitative sum, but rather creates a new situation which qualitatively surpasses the quantitative accumulation. Consequently, all the struggles of the Palestinian people, in and outside of the occupied territories, laid the ground for the intifada.

I allow myself to credit the Lebanese arena with having played an essential role as well, both prior to the 1982 Israeli invasion, with the Palestinian-Lebanese national steadfastness, and after the invasion, with the rise of the Lebanese national resistance against the Israeli occupation, and the material and moral victories it achieved. It was an example of the tremendous popular potentials - Lebanese and Palestinian which can be mobilized to confront the occupation...Besides, we must not forget the suffering and steadfastness

of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. It is in this context the celebrations of the PFLP's 20th anniversary played a basic role in the struggle directed simultaneously against the Israeli occupation and the reactionary Arab course which was doing its best to confiscate Palestinian national decision-making in preparation for surrender, as at the Amman Summit (1987). This struggle elevated the potentials of the Palestinian people.

We should dedicate the celebration of the PFLP's anniversary to discussing the task of protecting and developing the intifada, to enable it to succeed. Of course, there is insufficient room in an article for all the discussion needed. Hence, based on awareness of the centrality of this issue in the overall pan-Arab struggle, the Lebanese Communist Party is convening a Lebanese-Arab-international seminar on the occasion of the intifada entering its third year. We prepared this seminar in coordination with the PFLP, hoping that in addition to being a demonstration of solidarity, it would be an occasion for the leaders of Arab organizations and revolutionary and nationalist intellectuals to discuss their obligations in supporting the intifada. Here I will focus on the main points to be discussed...

## 1. On the Palestinian level

The Palestinian arena remains the party most capable of determining the line of the intifada, and fortifying it against the excessive Zionist repression on the one hand, and the attempts at aborting and containing it made by imperialism and Arab reactionary regimes on the other. Also, we must not forget the attempts of the Palestinian right wing to adopt policies that would ultimately lead to weakening the intifada and pushing it towards failure.

This poses certain tasks: bolstering the organizational structures which guide the intifada: consolidating the ►