
ventured in the direction of Jezzine. The government was obviously banking on US intervention to ease army deployment in Jezzine and avoid confrontation with the Israeli and SLA forces, but was it so naive to think such US accomodation was forthcoming? In any case, Israel has categorically refused to withdraw either from Jezzine or the occupied security zone. More likely than Israeli withdrawal is a future attempt by the US to have the Lebanese government, at Israel's behest, enact the resettlement of Palestinians in Lebanon, which is tantamount to forcing them to relinquish their right to return to Palestine. This could be part of the many behind – the – scenes deals being

discussed in conjunction with the proposed regional conference.

The struggle for South Lebanon is, however, far from over, as seen in the almost daily attacks on the Israeli occupiers and SLA by Lebanese resistance fighters. In this escalation of resistance operations, four Israeli soldiers were killed in the first half of July, while the SLA has suffered even heavier casualties. Israeli – SLA shelling and bombing of southern villages continues unabated, while on July 24th, the Israeli air force struck as far north as Damour, only nine miles from Beirut. It is hard to see that sovereignty with any real meaning has been established by the Lebanese Army deployment. ●

In whose interests is it that Palestinian blood be shed?

The following was translated by Amr Dasouqi from *Al Makatel Al Thawri (The Revolutionary Fighter)*, the magazine of the PFLP's military department, issue no. 102, July 1991.

Despite the flexibility demonstrated by the Palestinian leadership vis – a – vis the Taif agreement and the deployment of the Lebanese Army, this army opened fire on the Palestinians in South Lebanon. The Lebanese authorities insisted on postponing an official dialogue with the Palestinian leadership and instead launched a campaign of searches, raids and arrests against Palestinians in a number of areas. But most surprising were the statements of the Lebanese Army commanders and a number of ministers lauding the great victory scored against the Palestinians. These statements reached a degree that would make one think that the victory had been scored against the Zionist enemy and its agents, who have seized extensive areas of South Lebanon.

It is noteworthy that these areas of South Lebanon are, from a Zionist perspective, regarded as part and parcel of «Greater Israel.» This view has been reiterated by the Zionist leaders who repeatedly announce that Israel will not withdraw from South Lebanon, even if the Palestinian military presence is totally eliminated.

Why then did the Lebanese authorities create these clashes? In whose interests are these «victories» they are talking about? In whose interests is the campaign of searches, raids and arrests launched by the Lebanese authorities, despite their knowledge of how flexible and responsive the

Palestinians have been in relation to the Taif agreement and the deployment of the Lebanese Army throughout all Lebanon? Why did the Lebanese authorities insist on fighting instead of talking?

There is no doubt that the Lebanese authorities were banking on the illusive promises of the US, and thus working to meet the Israeli conditions which stipulate liquidation of the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese National Resistance Front and the Islamic nationalist forces, in order to guarantee Israel's northern borders. In return, the Lebanese authorities vainly hope that UN resolution 425, stipulating Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, will be implemented. It seems that the authorities have totally forgotten about the Zionists' dreams of controlling the water resources of South Lebanon, chiefly the Litani River, and their relentless efforts to bind Lebanon with economic and security treaties. Until Israel achieves these goals, it will continue blackmailing the Lebanese authorities by demanding withdrawal of the Syrian troops from Lebanon. Moreover, Israel will continue its efforts to abrogate the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Syria and Lebanon, and to sever Lebanon's ties with the Arab world under false security pretexts.

Together with their Lebanese brothers, the Palestinians have offered

great sacrifices to defend Lebanon against the Zionists' greedy ambitions and to liberate the occupied parts of Lebanon. The Palestinians remain willing to participate in this struggle of defense and liberation. More importantly, the Palestinians have learned from their own experience that the Palestinian camps and masses and the Lebanese land and people can only be protected by the joint Palestinian – Lebanese resistance, which should continue as long as Israel continues to occupy Lebanese territory. In addition, it has become very clear that, in principle, the Palestinians in Lebanon have the same rights and duties as the Lebanese people, and that they should enjoy these rights after having been deprived of them for so long.

Hence, it is necessary to continue dialogue between the Lebanese government and the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people wherever they are. This dialogue should resolve all unsettled issues and address the points of disagreement in order to resolve them in a democratic manner – removed from threats and fighting. In our view, all fighting should be directed against the Zionist enemy.

When the UN Security Council passed resolution 425 in 1978, there was no mention of the Palestinian armed presence in Lebanon. Therefore, all Lebanese and Arab endeavors should be channeled into forcing Israel to comply with that resolution unconditionally. Instead of pressuring the nationalist resistance, pressure should be exerted on the US, the self – proclaimed «guardian of human rights» and «defender» of UN resolutions, because the US along with its stepchild, Israel, is the party hampering implementation of this UN resolution, as well as those pertaining to the Palestinian question. The Palestinians, on the contrary, have been struggling to enact these resolutions.

The Lebanese authorities should also know that the sole beneficiary of the destruction of the Palestinian and Lebanese national resistance is the Zionist enemy and, of course, the US administration.

Finally, dialogue between the Lebanese government and the PLO is a very urgent matter; it is also incumbent on the Lebanese nationalist forces and personages to reject the army's transgressions against the Palestinian camps. These matters are no less important than the collective task of confronting the Zionist enemy to force it to relinquish the parts of Lebanon it has occupied. We should all move now before it is too late – before we all fall victim to the Zionist state's ambitions. ●