

decisions and damages national unity. We call on the Palestinian leadership to deal with this visit with wisdom and courage in order to contain its damaging results...We in the occupied territories need, more than ever, your unity, tenacity, strength and democracy. What has happened should be dealt with on this basis."

Mass associations and unions

The heads of the following made statements emphasizing that Arafat's visit is in violation of PNC resolutions and Palestinian collective leadership and consensus. Several noted that this was a step towards capitulation and could give the impression that the Palestinians supported Camp David. National Union of Palestinian Women in Gaza

National Collective of Secondary Students in Gaza

Lawyers Guild in the West Bank

Dentists Union in the West Bank

Engineers Union in the West Bank

Workers Union in the West Bank

Al Makased Society, Jerusalem

Society to Revitalize the Family, El Bireh

Eight mass organizations and unions in Ramallah and 24 in Bethlehem signed statements condemning the visit and furthermore calling on the PLO and Fatah's leadership to deprive Arafat of all his posts in the PLO and the Palestinian revolution.

General Unions

The following issued statements condemning Arafat's visit as a dangerous, individualistic step which renounced the PNC's resolutions. They viewed it as an unsuccessful attempt to impose the Camp David accords on the Palestinian question.

General Union of Palestinian Writers and Journalists

General Union of Palestinian Women

General Union of Palestinian Students

General Union of Palestinian Teachers

General Union of Palestinian Peasants

PNC Members in Jordan

On Dec. 23rd, 38 members of the Palestinian National Council, residing in Jordan, issued a statement (summarized below) condemning Arafat's visit to Egypt.

We, PNC members in Jordan, were aghast to hear of the individualistic

step taken by brother Yasir Arafat - his visit to Cairo and meeting with Husni Mubarak, the heir of Sadat who betrayed the Palestinian national cause by signing the capitulationist agreement with the Israeli enemy, and sunk Egypt into the quagmire of subordination to US imperialism. We vigorously condemn this step, as it is alien to Palestinian legitimacy.

This visit and meeting is an extension of the path of individualism and in violation of the decisions of the PNC and the PLO's legitimate bodies. It causes grave damage to the PLO's unity and independent decision, and offers a free credit to the Camp David accords.

We firmly defend the unity of the PLO and its legal bodies, and resist all attempts to bypass the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people; we resist all forms of interference in its internal affairs and all attempts to contain its independent decision. At the same time, we affirm our determination to continue the struggle to protect Palestinian legitimacy from the dangers of individualism, surrender and division...

We urge all the groups of the revolution, the Palestinian masses and all progressive and nationalist forces

and personalities, inside and outside the occupied homeland, to unite their ranks in order to defend the PLO and the gains of our people, achieved through the revolution and the Palestinian gun, in order to deter the opportunity of those forces opposed to our people's rights...and abort the enemy's plan which aims to drag the PLO into the quagmire of the capitulationist US solutions and their reactionary supplements, first and foremost the Reagan plan.

PNC Members in Syria

On Jan. 3rd, PLO Executive Committee member Abu Maher Al Yamani issued the following statement:

The PNC members present in Syria met in the PLO office in Damascus to study the dimensions of Yasir Arafat's meeting with Husni Mubarak and the dangers it could lead to. This step departs from the PLO's national legitimacy, abandons the Palestinian cause, and violates the Palestinian National Charter and PNC decisions. This deprives Arafat of all legitimacy in the PLO...

PFLP Press Conference

On December 24th, the PFLP held a press conference where Comrade George Habash, General Secretary, addressed a large group of journalists concerning Arafat's visit to Cairo.

How do you describe Mr. Arafat today?

From the formal point of view, he is still the Chairman of the PLO's Executive Committee. But after this dangerous step, I must say he will not be defined as such; he will not be the Chairman of the PLO's Executive Committee...Regardless of this legal point, Arafat, in the eyes of the masses, no longer represents their aims or the aims of the Palestinian revolution. He has become the Palestinian Sadat. I am sure that our masses will take the same position towards Arafat as they did towards Sadat.

In light of your position that Arafat has disqualified himself as Chairman of the PLO, who will handle the affairs of the PLO?

Of course, we are facing this problem, but only temporarily. Now those Executive Committee members who condemn this step should discuss how to continue the work of the PLO. Moreover, there is the chairman who is elected not by the Executive Committee, but by the Palestinian National Council: Khaled Fahoum. We hold him responsible for filling the gap until this problem is solved.

Besides, I would like to distinguish between the constitutional gap and a gap in the revolutionary work. Concerning the constitutional gap, the problem is a real one. On the other hand, there is no gap concerning the revolutionary work. Our guns will continue to be directed against the imperialist-Zionist enemy. We are aware that our struggle must increase, especially at this moment, against this enemy. Added to that is our political struggle and work among the