

masses. This is the opportunity to raise the consciousness of our masses concerning this step. In this way, we can assess the revolution - the political, military, financial, and behavioral mistakes - and build the revolution on a new, solid basis, better than before. We in the PFLP believe that this is the time to radicalize the revolution and build national unity on a new basis, free of all the mistakes committed in the Palestinian arena.

In the case that the number of those in the PLO who oppose Arafat does not exceed those supporting him, then he will still represent legitimacy. What would be your attitude in this case?

This is an important issue. Now that Arafat has taken such a step-not only dangerous, but also extremely individualistic, I doubt that the majority of the Executive Committee will cooperate with him. But let us suppose we face this problem; the answer will lie with our masses...They didn't revolt for 18 years and make sacrifices in order to end the revolution on the basis of Camp David. This means no Palestinian state, no right of self-determination, no right of return to the homeland. This is complete abortion of all the aims of our people who have been fighting since the revolution began. In the case that we face this dilemma, we will go to our masses and mobilize them to act. I cannot imagine they will accept the new Palestinian Sadat. I can only imagine that our masses will strenuously fight this pattern of Arafat. You should not be deceived by the statements of Shawwa and Freij. We know the stand of our masses in occupied Palestine. The enemy has made many efforts to divert their struggle-for example, the village leagues created by 'Israel'. Now the destiny of Arafat is not better than that of Dudeen, the head of the village leagues.

Your question gives me the chance to call on every single Palestinian to stand up and take a position on this step. Then I call on every Palestinian organization, every trade union, mass organization and nationalist personality. All members of the PLO Executive Committee, Central Council and Palestinian National Council must give an answer. Are they supporting the Palestinian Sadat, or for continuing the revolution? The masses will judge the position of each organization and PLO body member according to their stand on this step. This step is not a matter to be taken lightly. We are passing through a stage of "To be or not to be". We will make all efforts in order to be.

What other option did Arafat have, considering that he was pushed into the sea?

Arafat had more than one option. To go to Camp David is not the only option. He could have gone directly to Tunis and convened the Executive Committee to discuss the present situation in line with continuing the revolution. Then, we would have gone to the meeting and done our best to make it successful. We would support Arafat, not as a person, but as the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO. This was the nationalist option. Arafat chose the other option.

What is your attitude towards the fact that Egypt and Jordan seem to be supporting Arafat, while Syria opposes him?

Egypt and Jordan are actually supporting Arafat; it doesn't just seem so. Why? The answer lies in the political line. They want him to support the Reagan plan. Syria is against this.

In view of the Israeli position, you might ask if the Reagan plan is applicable? Why did Reagan think up this plan? The US wants to prepare the Arab side - the PLO, Egypt, Jordan. The Israeli side is not yet prepared. If the Arab side is ready, the US will await a change in the Israeli side, whereby the Labor Party will come to power. If this does not happen, the US will say that it cannot press 'Israel' and Arafat will have lost all...I wonder why Arafat has not learned from the lessons of the Arab leaders...

Were you surprised by Arafat's visit to Cairo? How are you going to confront this visit?

Since the revolution left Beirut, we have had the analysis that the Palestinian right wing shows clear indications of taking the US path. Prior to that, it showed willingness to participate in settlements through a Soviet-US sponsored international conference. But after Beirut, it is willing to participate in the US solutions. In this context, I cannot say that the PFLP was surprised; we were able to see the course of the right wing leading to such a step. If you mean whether we anticipated this deviation in December 1983, after the departure of Arafat's troops from Tripoli, my answer is no.

Concerning how we are going to confront this step: First, there has to be a clear assessment of what it means... Second, there should be an agreement and mobilization in all the ranks of the revolution and our masses. In light of

this, what should happen? Arafat should be impeached as the Chairman of the PLO, because he does not represent its nationalist line.

What is to be done? I propose the following:

1. Delimiting the target of the battle; it should be against Arafat, who was held responsible for this visit by Fatah's Central Committee, and those who support him in this step. We are against enlarging the battle. This tactical line should be agreed upon in the Palestinian arena.

2. Gathering all groups, forces, unions and personalities opposed to this step. It is high time that a broad front assume responsibility for impeaching Arafat and for knowing how to deal with their secondary contradictions. Despite any differences, there is a point of consensus, i.e., putting a stop to the right wing path.

3. Using legal methods for an extended period to reach this objective.

4. Mobilizing the masses until Arafat is ostracized...We should not be tolerant concerning the national cause. When deviation takes place, all our energies should be mobilized, in our writing and in mass meetings, to call for Arafat's expulsion, for he has abandoned the masses' national objectives. The Palestinian people are able to expell Arafat. An indication of this is that the Central Committee of Fatah declared that it is not responsible for this step.

Do you think that the Palestinians still have a strong military option?

Yes. Of course, if you mean can we actually start liberating Palestinian land, this will be difficult until we have strong pan-Arab support. But if you mean the Palestinian fighters, organized in small groups, striking the Israeli forces in occupied Lebanon and Palestine, yes. This is what is happening. Now our fighters are doing their duty helping the Lebanese to liberate the South.

Can you tell us about your meeting with Abdel Halim Khaddam (Syrian Foreign Minister)?

We have met to discuss three main topics. One, imperialism's aggressive actions in the Middle East and the dangers posed to Syria and the Palestinian revolution. Two, because we believe in Syrian-Palestinian solidarity, we have discussed current problems. Three, due to our presence in Syria, there are always practical issues to be discussed.