

products constituted 50% of total world industrial production; in 1950, 40%; in 1960, 30%; by 1980, 25%. Note how the curve is declining. It is well known that the economic standard determines the political power of every country. In the beginning of the 1990's, the US gross product is expected to decline to 20%.

We should view history with this outlook and determine our policies accordingly. It is shameful that the US, the engineer of Camp David, has an increasing share of its exports to the Arab countries. The oil-producing countries import 10% of the US's total exports; half of this is to Saudi Arabia alone. Some might say that these are only numbers and not big, but I hope that you study them more deeply...

After determining the political position against US imperialism, it is imperative to practice this decision politically, militarily and economically. Here, permit me to salute the heroic action of the Syrian soldiers who shot down the US planes and thus enhanced the position of the Arab nation. Allow me also to salute the political leadership that gave orders to shoot down those planes, in spite of all Arab reaction's talk about US invincibility. With every US or Israeli plane shot down by Syria, more support will be gained, because our masses spontaneously understand where the main contradiction lies. They support the force which embodies their will.

We well understand the deceptive attempts of Arab reaction to dilute the Syrian position. Nevertheless, our great hope is that Syria will continue to defend the national cause — to shoot at the US planes and the aggressive Marine forces in Beirut.

We can confront the US forces. Why don't we do so, like the heroic people of Vietnam, Cuba and others did? In reality, our human, economic and military capacity enables us to confront them and finally win. Especially, we must remember that the alternative to confrontation is total subjugation. The Reagan Administration's politics are clear. Syria, the Lebanese national movement, the Palestinian revolution and all progressive and nationalist Arab forces have no choice but to be ready for a serious confrontation to bury this aggressive policy.

People's war

Having defined our position on imperialism and practicing this policy, our third weapon is blending people's war with the steadfastness of Syria and other nationalist regimes. There are two examples that clearly show the significance of this. The first is the steadfastness of Beirut, a historical experience from which the Arab nation

can benefit in fighting imperialism and Zionism. The prolonged period of the siege provided an example of the importance of blending conventional warfare with people's war.

The second example is what is happening today in Lebanon...After the Palestinian resistance evacuated Beirut, a semi-collapse prevailed; there was a big shift in the balance of forces to the enemy's favor, added to the prevailing Arab situation. Yet in spite of all the difficulties and the depressing atmosphere, there were still vanguards saying: We will resist. Therefore, the Lebanese National Resistance Front was created, and 'Israel' began receiving the corpses of its soldiers. 'Israel', which had thought it emerged victorious from the war as a result of the PLO's evacuation, began to sense a new reality due to the heroic resistance. We should not only view the power of imperialism, its plans and successes. We should also clearly see our successes in steadfastness and in creating obstacles to imperialism's plans.

The examples of Beirut, the Lebanese National Resistance Front and the Lebanese national mass and political resistance exemplify the strength of this weapon. Our nation is not weak. On the contrary, it is strong if there is proper leadership making scientific political decisions and rallying the potentials of the masses according to these decisions.

Strengthening the triangle of steadfastness

In the process of confrontation, there is another weapon: Strengthening the national Syrian-Lebanese-Palestinian alliance, resolving all its problems through dialogue, and concentrating on the main contradiction. Part of the enemies' bet is exploiting problems within this alliance. We must rise to the historic responsibility that faces us in this difficult period, in order to build a national Syrian-Lebanese-Palestinian alliance that stands as a bulwark in the face of all plans woven by imperialism on the northern front, to confront US insistence on striking Syria.

The US media is full of the military options thought of in the White House and Pentagon; some think of occupying the southern outskirts of Beirut; others think the next step will be in the mountains; others advocate intensifying the air raids; still others are betting on the internal differences causing deficiencies... We have to abort this plan by strengthening the Syrian-Palestinian-Lebanese alliance. History shows no mercy. In ten years, it will record whether this Syrian-Lebanese-Palestinian confrontation was victorious or the opposite.

One of the factors determining this is

the subjective factor: How do we think? How do we determine our policies? How do we mobilize? How can we overcome the differences and problems inhibiting such a confrontation?

In the process of confrontation, we ought not to limit our thoughts to the Syrian-Lebanese-Palestinian alliance. Syria, the Lebanese national movement and the Palestinian revolution must specifically plan to build a broad Arab national front that supports them in this confrontation. Democratic Yemen, Algeria, Libya, the national movements in Egypt, Sudan, Morocco and the Arabian Peninsula must have a role in facing the challenge of imperialism. Finally, to face the US-Israeli alliance, there must be a principled, strategic alliance with the Soviet Union and the socialist countries...I do not emphasize this point as a result of underestimating the importance of the subjective factor, but based on a view of imperialism's global policy in this period. In order to be victorious, our alliance with the Soviet Union should develop to the extent that enables the forces of peace, liberation and socialism to achieve victory...

The next major section of Comrade Habash's speech dealt with strengthening the Palestinian revolution's role in the confrontation, through a correct resolution of the internal crisis in the PLO. We refer readers to the editorial and interview with Comrade Habash in this issue concerning the subject. Comrade Habash concluded by saluting the struggle of our people under occupation, the martyrs and prisoners and their families, and all those struggling everywhere...

We are extremely pleased to see our people in occupied Palestine determined to confront the occupation with all means-political, economic and military, despite being ruthlessly attacked and besieged by the Zionist enemy. Our masses in the occupied territories are facing not only the plots of the Zionist occupiers and their overt agents, but also those of the Jordanian regime and its clients, who are trying to exploit the difficult situation in the PLO for the purpose of imposing annexationist plans on our people. Moreover, the Jordanian regime is attempting to become the spokesman of the Palestinian people, bypassing the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative. In order to achieve this, all methods are used: the stick and the carrot, psychological warfare against our people in Jordan and the occupied homeland. Yet the will of our people is stronger than all these plots. They foiled them in the past and will also do so in the present and in the future, until achieving victory...