

pendent Palestinian national decision, yet always viewing this in the light of links with the Arab national liberation movement; strengthening Palestinian national unity on a correct, militant basis; adhering to democratic means for resolving secondary contradictions within the revolution; implementing democratic reforms in the ranks of the revolution and the bodies of the PLO; adherence to the principle of collective leadership, and ending individualist methods, in order to insure commitment to the PLO's political programs.

The final statement specified that the Palestinian revolution's strategic alliances are with the Arab liberation movement, in order to further the common struggle of the Arab masses against imperialism and its lackeys and their projects in the area, and for independence, democracy and progress. Relations with the Arab regimes should be determined in accordance with their stand on confronting imperialism and its plans, and their commitment to the Palestinian people's rights and the PLO's sole representation. It was concluded that although the Egyptian national movement had scored some successes, the fundamental policy of the regime had not changed; it has reaffirmed its commitment to Camp David. The GUPS adheres to the resolutions of the 16th PNC, which call for relations with the Egyptian regime only when it departs from the Camp David accords. The GUPS also reiterated the principle adopted at the last PNC, that future relations with Jordan should be on the basis of confederation after the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. A warning was delivered concerning the maneuvers of the Jordanian regime, and some Palestinian circles linked to it, who aim to circumvent the PLO's representation, which is not to be delegated, mandated or shared with any party.

The Congress extended full support to the struggle of the Palestinian people in the occupied homeland against the Zionist occupation and its designs. A special salute was addressed to the students in the face of Zionist repression. The GUPS reaffirmed the necessity of rebuilding and supporting the Palestinian National Front in the occupied homeland, to be the militant framework of all the nationalist forces' struggle, and part and parcel of the PLO.

The final statement called for an immediate halt to the Iraq-Iran war, for it is used by imperialism and reaction to divide the area and weaken the Arab national liberation movement; respect for the rights of both sides and non-interference in internal affairs was urged.

The final statement expressed full support and solidarity with the struggle

of the Lebanese nationalist and progressive forces. It called for strengthening relations based on common struggle to liberate Lebanon from Zionist occupation, cancel the May 17th agreement, and preserve Lebanon's unity, sovereignty and Arab identity, and promote its democratic development; it also called for protecting the Palestinian masses in Lebanon and securing their human and social rights.

The final statement reaffirmed rejection of Camp David and the Reagan plan, based on enmity towards imperialism. It placed the Palestinian revolution squarely in the anti-imperialist camp, with vital relations to the socialist countries.

Two points elicited lengthy debate and much effort to find a common denominator of agreement. The first concerned the battles in Tripoli. The position finally adopted condemned the besieging of the camps and Tripoli, and the forces that participated in this. Unfortunately, there was a tendency to view these events in a highly emotional, unscientific manner. The need for repairing relations with Syria and Libya, in order to further the struggle against the enemy plans in the area, was totally neglected. Because the position adopted was not a careful evaluation that could contribute to solving the Palestinian crisis, our comrades found it necessary to register a reservation on this point, to be included among the Congress documents.

The second controversial point concerned Arafat's visit to Cairo. On this matter, our comrades worked for a clear condemnation of this visit on both political and organizational grounds. The formulation finally adopted reads: "The visit constitutes an individualist action

that oversteps the organizational frameworks and institutions of the PLO. While we adhere to the resolutions of the PNC, especially its 16th session, as well as to the legitimate institutions of the PLO, we view that these institutions are required to evaluate this visit and place a blockade on its results, as these institutions are the controllers of Palestinian relations, based on the political program and PNC resolutions."

This clearly expresses an organizational criticism of the visit. Also, by calling for a blockade against its results, the GUPS has signalled political disapproval of the visit, though it is not outright condemned. Rather the visit is seen as a political error on the part of Arafat.

New leadership elected

The Congress elected a new leadership. A slate of candidates was drawn up and elected, apportioning the 33 seats in the GUPS Administrative Council between Fatah, PFLP, DFLP, ALF, and PCP. This council in turn elected a new Executive Committee which included members from Fatah, PFLP, DFLP and PCP.

As can be deduced from this article, the positions adopted at the GUPS congress did not correspond totally to the results which the PFLP and other organizations may have hoped for. However, the Congress was a success, for it preserved unity in an important mass organization of the Palestinian revolution. This shows that national unity can be maintained when democratic procedures and serious national commitment are applied. In this way, the experience of the Congress can be an example in ongoing efforts to resolve the crisis in the PLO.

West Bank students demonstrate at Jerusalem UNRWA headquarters on Jan. 31 against imposition of Jordanian comprehensive exam.

