

Palestinians Disown Jordanian Moves

National Conference at Bir Zeit

Representatives of 31 mass and national institutions from the West Bank and Gaza Strip conferred at Bir Zeit University, January 23, and issued a statement strongly rejecting Jordan's recent parliamentary moves as a circumvention of the achievements of the PLO. Over 1000 people attended representing virtually all levels of Palestinian organisation in the occupied territories: voluntary work committees, worker's and professional unions, women's committees, universities, vocational and secondary school student councils and blocs, writers and artists federations, journalists and youth committees in towns, villages and camps signed the statement which called for boycotting the Jordanian parliament conspiracy to "represent" the West Bank.

The statement reiterated six positions:

the firm and decisive stand against the Jordanian parliament conspiracy; the PLO as the sole legitimate representative and the commander of the struggle of all Palestinians wherever they may be; no alternative goals to the right of return, self-determination and the establishment of the Palestinian state; the unity of all PLO factions in the occupied territories within the national front; and silence from all brokers of Black September in the occupied land.

Mass institutions in Bethlehem

Eighteen national and popular institutions in Bethlehem signed a statement, February 8, strongly protesting last month's reconvening of the Jordanian parliament which included 30 West Bank 'representatives'.

Bethlehem sources told *Al Fajr* that the statement's timing coincides with a pro-

Jordanian statement now being circulated for signatures.

The anti-Jordanian statement calls the reconvening of both houses of the Jordanian parliament as "bypassing the Rabat summit resolution which recognised the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people." The statement also considered the Jordanian move "a clear violation of the legitimacy of the PLO and its institutions."

Among the signatories to the statement were the student council and alumni association at Bethlehem University, the Dheisheh Youth Centre, local clubs, women's organisations and labour unions.

The Bethlehem institutions called the move "part of a chain of events aimed at liquidating the PLO and entering in the Camp David negotiations".

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with any friendly Arab regime, but under no circumstances with the PLO.

The regime's second point - the return of Egypt - is in fact an appeal to the Arabs to join Camp David. Amman is forwarding another project to facilitate this appeal by calling for cancellation of the principle of unanimity in the Arab League, to be replaced by majority rule.

The Jordanian regime's call expresses the wishes and interests of the official Arab majority who fully understand the mutuality of US-Arab bourgeois interests and thus have no opposition to expanding Camp David via the Jordanian option.

The Jordanian regime, which speaks incessantly these days of the "joint

Jordanian-Palestinian march", has now found its golden opportunity, after the visit of Arafat to Cairo, and Mubarak's continued expression of adherence to Camp David after his meeting with Arafat.

The recent Jordanian measures, the reviving of the parliament and the choice of replacements for West Bank deputies who had passed away, are not surprising. They are the expression of the regime's policy, political calculations, and the role which it has never thought of relinquishing. In his "Throne Speech", the King said and later repeated: "The Palestinian cause has always been the cause of Jordan." Crown Prince Hassan declared that the Palestinian cause is more than essential for Jordanian moves, and that it enters into the innermost life and security of Jordan. This is certainly true in the sense that the very existence and development of the regime has been sponsored by imperialism and Arab reaction in order to have a gendarme to complement the Israeli role of dividing and controlling Palestine and the Palestinians, especially whenever they seek to raise their national cause for the sake of an independent democratic Palestinian society. For this same reason, Jordan has always been pivotal in any plans for dominating the area. In the light of the present conditions prevailing on the Arab level, including the Palestinian right wing's readiness for a settlement even if its role is to be minimal, the historical role of Jordan is taking on its current dimensions. Thus, the Jordanian option has concretely become the most crucial trap set for the Palestinian revolution at this stage.

Arafat's Visit to Amman

Ten months after an earlier visit, Arafat again met King Hussein in Amman, in late February. After discussions, a joint statement was issued, which had no dramatic contents. The declaration stated no confirmation of the Reagan plan, but specified general principles for joint Palestinian-Jordanian work. Yet, as had been earlier declared by a Jordanian responsible, those general principles should be based on UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, as was discussed between Reagan and Hussein during the latter's visit to Washington.

Different interpretations have been offered of this outcome: Some said that Arafat has not yet yielded all his cards to Hussein. Others left open the possibility of reaching an agreement. Still others related the result to the fact that Hussein, after sensing weaknesses and divisions in the PLO after Arafat's visit to Cairo, is no longer enthusiastic about a public agreement with Arafat, but simply wants Arafat to accept the steps taken by Amman to rob the PLO of its representation. Regardless of these speculations, Arafat's visit to Cairo left

no room for doubt that he has made up his mind to seek solutions within the US horizons.

In an interview the same day Arafat arrived in Amman, Doctor George Habash, General Secretary of the PFLP, had the following estimation of the visit in advance: Answering a question as to whether the Arafat-Hussein dialogue would be successful, Comrade Habash stated, "No, I don't think so; the only result will be the weakening of the PLO. Although King Hussein has publicly approved regarding the Reagan plan, at the same time, 'Israel' has publicly refused it. This is the first obstacle. The second obstacle will be in the Palestinian-Jordanian relation. King Hussein wants Yasir Arafat to say: 'All right, you can talk in the name of the Palestinians.' Although, of course, we are highly critical of the policy of Arafat, yet at the same time I think that Arafat will not give an O.K. to this proposal. That is why I think there will be no use to this talk in Amman. The only result will be the weakening of the PLO and the confusion experienced by our masses at this critical time."