

Permanent revolt

In their frenzied efforts to abolish resistance, the Zionists have enacted "security" measures to the point of counter-productivity. The IDF ushered in the new year with 50 new "security" regulations, new arrest campaigns (adding to the 800 southerners estimated already detained), and widespread uprooting of orchards. In turn, the masses made revolt the permanent feature of life in the South, with strikes, demonstrations, sit-ins and clashes with the enemy forces.

In their fear, Israeli soldiers have repeatedly acted in a manner seemingly designed to provoke even the most com-

placent - raiding a Saida mosque with search dogs, singling out respected religious leaders, and on several occasions, firing into crowded Saida streets at mid-day, injuring civilians, because of a suspected car bomb. The Zionists have always prided themselves on their "Arabists", claiming ability to subdue the occupied population with subtle means. But like in occupied Palestine, the facts in South Lebanon show that the contradiction between the oppressed and the oppressors cannot be solved by psychological means or petty inducements. The logic of occupation is brute force - and the popular response is resistance. Now that the front of Lebanese nationalist

resistance has spread from the South to Beirut, the Likud government is doubly caught in the trap of its own making. It is more than ever clear that the goals of the 1982 invasion will not be fulfilled, no matter how long the IDF remains; continuing casualties bring this home to the Israeli public daily, feeding the internal crisis in the Zionist entity. Yet further withdrawal, to save lives and soften the criticism, will increase the territory of liberated Lebanon. This would provide the example which the Zionists, like imperialism and Arab reaction, most fear, that armed popular resistance is the only way to recover occupied Arab land.

Interview with Comrade Hawi

On February 6th, the Lebanese Army lost control of West Beirut, and was threatened by widespread desertion from its ranks. The previous day, Prime Minister Wazzan's government had resigned. Yet US envoy Rumsfeld had the audacity to declare, "We don't believe the Lebanese government has collapsed."

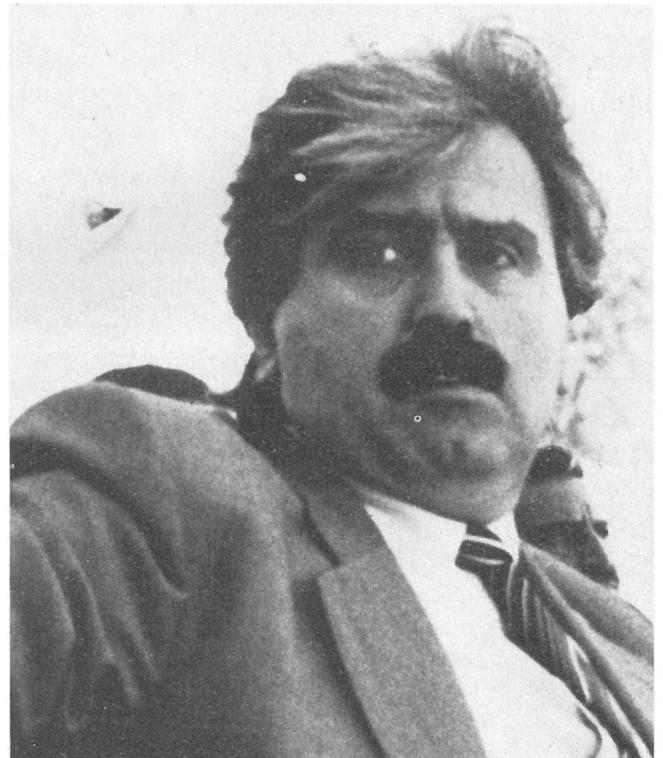
On this real turning point of a day, the PFLP's weekly, "Al Hadaq", had the opportunity to interview Comrade George Hawi, General Secretary of the Lebanese Communist Party, on the latest developments and the perspectives of the nationalist victory in Beirut. Of particular interest are Comrade Hawi's evaluations of the linkage between the armed struggle in South Lebanon and in Beirut, and of the possibility for the Palestinian revolution to benefit from the recent Lebanese experience in order to reestablish its struggle in Lebanon on a more fruitful basis than before.

On the Wazzan government's resignation...

Wazzan's resignation is the beginning of the collapse of the rule of the Phalangists and the Gemayel family. From one angle, it is no doubt a political maneuver aiming to dilute the total, united political opposition that emerged in confronting the Gemayel authority. It also aims to absorb the popular disenchantment with the authority on both domestic and foreign policy issues. However, this maneuver came too late and did not take into account the most recent developments. The popular movement and the position of the progressive forces, mainly the National Salvation Front and the Amal movement, has closed the door on all maneuvers.

The question is no longer one of a government, whether like the previous one or a national unity government, if it works with this group (the Phalangists) who are responsible for destroying all Lebanon, including Ashrafiyeh, the Metn, Kaserwan, Bint Jbail and Batroun (areas with large Christian populations which the Phalangists claim to represent). Moreover, it is no longer possible to have a dialogue with the Phalangist Party or its representatives in power. Walid Jumbatt, in our name, rejected entering into any parliamentary, political maneuvers or consultations. Also, Nabih Berri, in our name, rejected this game. Both emphasized a major demand: the downfall of Amin Gemayel.

The other tasks will come as a result of this major task, cancelling the May 17th agreement, departure of the invading US troops and the rest of the MNF, removing all forms of the Phalangist Party's authority in the state and from all affairs related to the political, economic and social future of Lebanon. Other issues related to the authority will be under discussion with the new president of the republic, not with the present one.



Developments have gone way beyond halfway or partial solutions. The policy of the Phalangists and the President closed the door on halfway solutions or reconciliation. Our call for reconciliation was never a call for reconciliation with