

Continuity in the Soviet Union

While deeply sorrowed by the death of Comrade Andropov, we congratulate the Communist Party of the Soviet Union on the election of Comrade Konstantin U. Chernenko as Secretary of the Central Committee. We congratulate the entire Soviet people on the election of a new Supreme Soviet. We have every reason for retaining full confidence in the continuity of the Soviet Union's principled positions, whether concerning the conflict in our area, or other vital domestic and international issues.

Though indirectly and inadvertently, the standing of the Soviet Union was even confirmed by the virulent campaign waged by the imperialist media on the occasion of Comrade Andropov's death and the election of his successor. Failing to find real symptoms of disar-

ray in the Soviet leadership, the US press in particular resorted to unsubstantiated insinuations and pounced on details as if they had great political importance. Such shoddy journalism appeared in the same pages that reported "Moslem gangs invading West Beirut", as if the nationalist forces who liberated the city did not even live there, much less enjoy broad popular support for challenging the regime's repressive army. In a more subtle attack, Comrade Andropov was depicted as a leader who died before he left his mark on Soviet policy and whose initiatives will now be lost. Both are examples of self-serving distortion of the character of those who challenge imperialism's plans.

Comrade Andropov became a special target of imperialism and its media be-

cause of his sharply defined stands against the Reagan Administration's military build-up and threat of nuclear holocaust. These same stands made him an exceptional leader in the eyes of all progressive forces and oppressed peoples fighting imperialism. The basic point, however, is that Comrade Andropov built his policy on the foundation of the Soviet Union's historical opposition to imperialism, and this policy will be continued under the leadership of Comrade Chernenko. For this reason, the efforts to exploit the change in the Soviet leadership to the advantage of imperialism's global offensive will fail. Continuity in the Soviet remains as an important support for all those struggling for freedom, democracy, peace and socialism.

Condolences on Comrade Andropov's Death

On the occasion of the death of the great leader Uri Andropov, Comrade George Habash, General Secretary of the PFLP, sent the following telegram of condolences to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, on February 11th:

Proletarian internationalist greetings

On the occasion of the death of the dear comrade, Uri Andropov, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and President of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, who was true to the principles of Marxism-Leninism, communism and peace, I offer you the deepest condolences on behalf of the PFLP's Central Committee, cadres, members and militants. We are confident that you, your people and government, are able to overcome all difficulties, and march forward along the path paved by Comrade Andropov against imperialism, racism and reaction, and for progress, liberation and peace.

Under the leadership of Comrade Andropov, your party adhered to principled, solid and courageous stands concerning the attempts of the US, its NATO allies and their puppets — the reactionaries and dictators, to impose the logic of force and reverse the movement of history in Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. This position is clear evidence of your sincerity



and adherence to the principles laid down by the great Comrade Lenin on the questions of war and peace.

We view your and Comrade Andropov's stands and steps as an example and guide in our common struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction in our Arab area. Our struggle is intensifying against the direct US presence in Lebanon, the Zionist occupation of a part of Lebanon and Syria and all of Palestine, and the direct US support to 'Israel', which was recently consolidated in their strategic agreement. The struggle against these enemies is achieving new victories that rubbed the nose of imperialism and Zionism in the mud. These victories would not have been possible were it not for our people's steadfastness, and the support of our Arab and international allies, in particular the honorable aid offered by the socialist community, first and foremost the Soviet Union.

Again I offer our deepest sympathies and most sincere condolences. I wish to stress that we stand with you in the struggle against imperialism, Zionism, racism, and reaction, in order that the banner of democracy, socialism and communism be raised high.

- Long Live the great Soviet Communist Party.
- Long Live the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.
- The struggling people will be victorious.