

is one dead and one wounded; and the financial costs are \$1 million, a day. Or it withdraws from South Lebanon - an option which does not provide guarantees against military operations from South Lebanon to occupied Palestine. To this comes the aggravating political and economic crisis 'Israel' is facing and its present fear of the Syrian military force. Because of this, it is unable to launch a large-scale military adventure which would aim at returning the balance of forces to the stage prior to the nationalist victory.

As to the fascists, the victory has inflicted heavy losses on them, increased their differences, aborted their plans of controlling all of Lebanon, and consequently they were compelled to compromise at the Lausanne Conference for national reconciliation.

The continuation of the armed struggle against the Zionist forces in South Lebanon and the escalation of this struggle, qualitatively and quantitatively, will increase the crisis of the enemy and effect more changes not only in Lebanon but in the area as a whole, and the continued cooperation between the Lebanese National Forces and the Palestinian Revolution will strengthen both of them.

The victory achieved in Lebanon was founded on the basis of the nationalist triangle: Lebanese-Palestinian-Syrian. The effects of this victory will therefore not be limited to Lebanon, neither geographically nor politically. This victory defeated the American administration's and the Zionist enemy's plans for Lebanon, which are directly linked to their projects for the whole area. Therefore, the positive reflections of this will gradually show in the positions the enemy had planned to be their new attacking points after their victory in Lebanon.

Jordan, for instance, being the second circle to follow Camp David on Reagan's list, has after the cancellation of the May 17th agreement, increased difficulties in going ahead with its and the American administration's project for negotiations with the Zionist enemy on the future of the West Bank and Gaza on the basis of the Reagan plan.

On the Palestinian level, the reflections will be deep. It opens for the Palestinian Revolution to strengthen their strug-

gle through fighting the forces of occupation in South Lebanon and mobilize through political, social and cultural activities in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. It also strengthens the democratic forces in fighting the capitulationist trend and producing radical reforms in the PLO.

All these elements constitute the positive options in the coming stage: the option of using the new balance of forces to advance to an attacking stage. The main element enabling this change in the balance of forces after 1982 is the Soviet Union's great support to Syria and the national alliance which will continue to be the main element allowing more changes in the regional balance during this stage.

This stage also contains obstacles which should be overcome, so all efforts can be directed against the enemy's plans. One obstacle is the enemy's attempts to create conflicts within the Lebanese nationalist forces. Another is the attempts of the Zionist enemy in making local «security» arrangements to avoid great losses within its forces.

On the Palestinian level, the dangers resulting from Arafat's visit to Cairo, and what followed from this visit, disabled the PLO from having a central role in the preceding battles, and if things continue as they are, this will be an obstacle against the positive option.

For the PLO to play a central role in the struggle against the imperialist plans and to secure the Palestinian People's right to self-determination and the building of an independent state, unity must be reached on the basis of a national program. The capitulationist trend must be seen to an end to bring about radical changes within the PLO in order bring the PLO back to its central, political role in the area.

The opportunity of changing the balance of forces in the area which would restrain the enemy and pose new questions was never as ripe as it is today. The qualitative support of the Soviet Union forms an umbrella which ensures neutralization of the imperialist forces; such a protection never occurred in the area previously. By giving the National Lebanese Movement, the Syrians and the Palestinian Revolution a historical opportunity to direct further blows against the Zionist enemy, further alterations in the balance of forces can be achieved. ●

Name .....

Address .....

Number of copies requested .....

New subscriber ..... Former subscriber ..... Exchange .....

If exchange, write the name of your publication .....

Mail to: Democratic Palestine, P.O.Box 12144, Damascus, Syria

Deposit 24 dollars in account no. 010-41-006222-06, Bank of Cyprus.

Please do not send any payment to Damascus address.