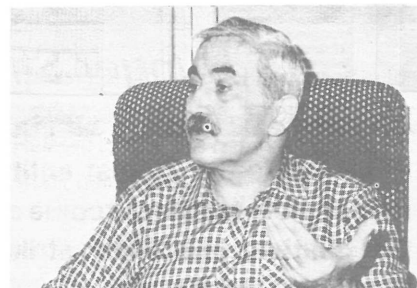


Significance of the Aden Meeting

An Interview with Comrade George Habash



The following is an interview with Comrade George Habash, General Secretary of the PFLP, in which he explains to the staff of «Al Hadaf» and «Democratic Palestine», the significance of the agreement reached in Aden between the PFLP-DFLP Joint Leadership, the Palestinian Liberation Front and the Palestinian Communist Party. Comrade Habash expressed great optimism that the results of this meeting will exert positive influence on the efforts to resolve the crisis in the PLO.

How do you evaluate the Aden declaration in the light of the crisis in the PLO?

Actually, more important than the declaration is the long, serious discussion that took place regarding the crisis in the Palestinian arena and the PLO, and how to deal with this... In this respect, we can register a very great achievement: the clarification and unification of the points of view of the Joint Leadership, together with the Palestinian Liberation Front and the Palestinian Communist Party, on the Palestinian problems and how to resolve them.

This takes us back to Arafat's visit to Cairo on December 22, 1983, and its implications as a dangerous, new, qualitative deviation, whereby Arafat tried to pull the PLO towards his own position. At that time, there was agreement in the Joint Leadership regarding the danger of this step, its political aims and implications. The overall position was to condemn and strongly confront this step.

After that, in light of the dangerous situation resulting from Arafat's visit, it was natural that, for a period of time, some tactical differences existed concerning the position to be adopted in order to truly foil this step. The most important achievement in Aden was that the Joint Leadership, along with the Palestinian Liberation Front and the Palestinian Communist Party, united their points of view regarding a variety of tactical issues facing us after Arafat's visit to Cairo. This achievement has become an asset in our hands, which in my view is a great accomplishment.

You are probably aware of the many speculations that have circulated, even in the PFLP's leadership and among our rank-and-file and the masses supporting us, about the experience of the Joint Leadership. In all honesty, I should say that prior to the discussion in Aden...we were quite worried that differences might continue, which would have had a negative impact on the Joint Leadership experience. When thinking of the possibility that differences would continue and have a

negative impact on the Joint Leadership experience, I felt a great objective responsibility. This led me to the necessity of thinking further to find ways of resolving the differences that existed.

In our analysis of the crisis of the Palestinian resistance, even prior to our departure from Beirut, as was clearly stated in the Political Report of our 4th congress, we believe that overcoming the crisis is conditional on the growth of the revolutionary democratic forces and their influence in the Palestinian revolution and the PLO.

Now I can express my immense satisfaction, because the recent discussion in Aden ended with uniting the points of view concerning the political questions now facing us. This has revived anew our hope in the success of the Joint Leadership experience, and the experience of the revolutionary democratic trend on the Palestinian level. Such unification is a guarantee for continuing the revolution.

I have made this long introduction because the importance of the discussions and results in Aden goes way beyond the political declaration issued by the meeting.

What about the initiative which the group of four (PFLP, DFLP, PLF, PCP) presented to the Central Committee of Fatah?

Fatah's Central Committee, via the Yemeni Socialist Party, presented us (the four) with a working paper to be the basis of discussion. We read this paper carefully. We in the PFLP, as well as our comrades in the DFLP, felt that it in no way addressed the questions existing in the Palestinian arena. Most eye-catching was that it completely ignored Arafat's visit to Cairo, as if it had never happened. It was necessary for the members of Fatah's Central Committee to realize that Arafat's visit to Cairo is the major cause of the disruption of Palestinian unity. This paper should have dealt with the visit, stating a clear position on this and how to deal with its results. We were aghast to see that this paper ignored the visit which has raised a