

major question: Does Arafat, after this dangerous deviation, remain to be the common denominator for bringing the Palestinian arena together?

After this dangerous deviation, is it possible for Arafat to establish the necessary relations with the progressive and nationalist regimes? Here in particular, I mean Syria, which is confronting the imperialist plans, the Reagan and Camp David formulas. How can we unite the Palestinian arena, and establish national and progressive alliances on the Arab and international levels, with Arafat remaining as the head of the PLO? The more I think about this subject, I find that correcting the existing situation in the PLO, uniting it and enabling it to establish national and progressive alliances, has become conditional on Arafat's stepping down. I can no longer see how it is possible to cement internal Palestinian relations, Syrian-Palestinian relations, or Palestinian-Lebanese nationalist relations without his stepping down.

The question here is not Arafat personally, but rather the trend that he represents. I hope that this subject can be fully understood. During the battle of Beirut and in the PNC's 16th session, when Arafat was moving in the framework of the national platform, we accorded him his due respect as the symbol of the Palestinian revolution. Yet, after the Cairo visit and its aftermath, can Arafat remain as the common denominator for uniting the Palestinian arena? It is impossible for him to unite the Palestinian national forces and masses with the course he has taken. Our Palestinian masses will never accept Arafat's alliance with the Camp David regime or with the reactionary Jordanian regime, or that he wages a battle against Syria while Syria is confronting the imperialist-Zionist plans.

There is no indication that Arafat is willing to reverse this trend. On the contrary, all signs point to his deep involvement in this deviationist trend. Thus, the paper of Fatah's Central Committee is very strange and surprising. Moreover, Arafat's visit provided the door whereby the Camp David regime returned to the Islamic Summit. For the paper not to refer to this is like demanding our consent to this result, as well as to the joint communique issued by Arafat and the Jordanian regime. If we examine this joint communique carefully, we find that every statement is for a solution to the Palestinian question via alliance with the reactionary Arab regimes. Also, on organizational questions, the working paper of Fatah's Central Committee contained things that were very strange and surprising to us. Yet realizing the importance of Fatah's Central Committee and of dealing with it on a clear nationalist basis, the participants in the Aden meeting agreed on proposing a political and organizational platform whereby future relations can be established with Fatah's Central Committee.

We think that this is the only basis for guaranteeing the unity of the Palestinian arena, if we all want to deal with the internal problems in a serious way that can guarantee the PLO's unity. The specific political and organizational points agreed on in Aden leave no room for equivocation... For example, on the political level, we want a clear, public condemnation

of Arafat's visit to Cairo. The Fatah Central Committee's statement after the visit considered it a personal initiative without dealing with its political repercussions, which became the door for Egypt's reentry to the Islamic Summit. Arafat and some of his Central Committee members considered the reconvening of the Jordanian parliament and the appointment of deputies for the West Bank, to be an internal Jordanian affair, etc.

We want a clear nationalist position to be defined regarding the reactivation of the Jordanian parliament and the Arafat-Jordanian declaration, as well as regarding the return of the Egyptian regime and relations with it, in a way that ends all connections, on all levels, with this regime. This means the application of the resolutions of the PNC's 16th session.

On the organizational level, we want Arafat brought to account for his visit to Cairo, and what followed of organizational violations which ignored the legitimate bodies of the PLO and the PNC resolutions. Organizationally speaking, these and similar things prevent Arafat from being the common denominator for uniting the Palestinian revolution. The points which we put forth to Fatah's Central Committee stress the importance of agreement, prior to the next PNC, between the Palestinian organizations and other components of the PLO, on the formation of leadership bodies that guarantees the participation of all nationalist organizations. Moreover, we stressed that a comprehensive national consensus is required prior to convening the PNC.

We want a clear answer to the following question: Will Fatah's Central Committee accept Arafat's chosen course of counting on the Arab regimes that are allied with the US and its plans? We will not accept a vague answer. Does Fatah's Central Committee condemn or accept Arafat's trend?

We are fed up with words and elastic expressions... Arafat was entrusted with the PNC's resolutions and he betrayed them. What is the position of on him? We will not accept a vague answer. We and the DFLP have agreed on a clear position: that he is no longer the common denominator for uniting the Palestinians. We will not compromise on this subject. This is the position of the Joint Leadership, the democratic alliance (the four), and all nationalist forces in the Palestinian arena with the exception of Arafat and those who stand with him.

If this is the case, why didn't the Aden declaration mention the resignation of Arafat?

The declaration is a general one, stressing the basic political issues. It can be considered a summary of the discussion. The declaration affirmed the unity of the PLO on a progressive and nationalist basis. The second point stressed the specific position against the deviation. Another point emphasized the necessity of uniting the revolution against the deviationist trend. It also emphasized the joint Soviet-Syrian declaration as a sound basis for building alliances on the Arab and national level. The political declaration refers to the general matters that determine our joint tactics and positions.

