

front within and based on the PLO. Its goal is uniting the PLO on a national basis. It is the means to rally all national forces within the PLO to rectify its path of operation. Thus, in our view, this issue is not subject to individual interpretations or compromise. We will not participate in founding a new PLO or push this trend to take the form of an alternative PLO. The deviating trend is fully responsible for anything that may take place in the ways of splits or dismantling within the PLO arena. We will under no condition take any responsibility regarding this matter.

2. We will not establish bodies or institutions parallel to those of the PLO. This point is implicit in the first point, but I wanted to emphasize and clarify it.

3. This front is open to all without exception. It is for all concerned parties who are willing to fight the capitulationist and deviating trend in the Palestinian arena.

The deviating party is suffering from confusion due to the fact that they thought they would win legitimacy, if they moved fast. Yet the developments that followed Arafat's visit to Cairo, especially the nationalist victories in Lebanon, and the growing size of the Palestinian national opposition, showed the deviating party that they are facing a tough battle. How do you view the dilemma facing the deviators?

After Arafat's visit to Cairo, a very big thing happened. I consider it the primary factor in answering this question. The great victories in Lebanon represented by the liberation of West Beirut, the abrogation of the May 17th agreement and the humiliating pull out of the multi-national forces. A great victory took place that provides a political answer regarding what is taking place on the Palestinian and Arab levels. This victory affirms that the position of steadfastness and confrontation taken against imperialism, the continuation of the armed struggle and mass mobilization, and not betting on the US imperialism and Arab reaction is the only line that can lead to results in favour of the nationalist forces.

In addition, another great thing happened that pointed to the end of the road for those that bet on the US and Arab reaction. The US, in spite of its might and warships, was incapable of standing up to this decisive confrontation with the Lebanese nationalists and Syria. The US was incapable of protecting itself and its reactionary allies in Lebanon. All this has had an impact on the outcome of the struggle taking place between the two lines in the Palestinian arena: between the line of steadfastness and confrontation that is determined to continue the revolution and the deviating and capitulationist line. Is this outcome really clear to the leaders of the capitulationist trend? Are these clear results going to lead the symbols of the capitulationist trend to condemn themselves and think of returning to the nationalist position? The answer is no; this is clear in the explanations and evaluations they offer regarding these victories. They don't consider these achievements as victories, and they believe that the course of events in Lebanon

is going along with the Israeli plans of dividing Lebanon. This is an indication that these deviating elements are determined to continue their path. After answering this question, I want to say that the battle with the deviating line, in spite of these positive developments, is a very hard and long battle that we must not underestimate. We can't rely solely on the objective developments. Rather we must combine this with extensive, subjective, well-planned efforts, if we are to celebrate the burial of the deviationist and capitulationist trend, whereby the PLO can regain its effective and influential power in confronting its enemies on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels, and regain its strength to achieve the national goals.

Any quick evaluation of the struggle between the two lines indicates that the course of events is in favor of the nationalist line due to two main factors: the objective developments and the subjective efforts.

What pleases me the most in this course of events is how it relates to our Palestinian masses in the occupied land. They have always raised Arafat's pictures as the symbol of the Palestinian nationalist forces. I was afraid they would find it difficult to comprehend the extent and danger of this deviating step into which Arafat attempted to drag the Palestinians. Yet our Palestinian masses are guided by their national feelings and rich experience of struggle against the Camp David trend and its regime. They are also fully aware of the threat posed by the Jordanian regime to the Palestinian revolution. They have experienced the specific Jordanian policies regarding the occupied lands, be it regarding the delegations to Jordan, the university teachers' petitions, the municipalities on their position on the civil administration. Based on all this experience, our masses have proved that they stand firm on their national cause and are not tied to this symbol or that in the PLO leadership.

What is needed is continuous daily efforts to end the deviating trend - our tool for this is the broad national front which will bring an end to this trend and protect the PLO and its unity on a national basis.

There are indications that the capitulationist party is rapidly preparing for a PNC session, what is your position regarding this?

This question gives us the opportunity to state that the joint leadership and its allies on the Palestinian level regard their participation in the next PNC as conditional on Palestinian leadership meetings that define a sound, political line for the PLO which is not subject to individual interpretation. They also regard their participation as conditional on agreement being made concerning the organizational questions, meaning the question of the Palestinian leadership of the PLO and its executive committee and central council. It is also conditional on the honesty and effectiveness of these bodies in translating the written agreement so it brings an end to the tragedy of individualism and failure, so we can be sure that we have completely eliminated the diseases.