

Arafat's Visit to Cairo

the Egyptian Communist View

The following is a translation of an article written by Michel Kamal, Politbureau member of the Communist Party of Egypt, which appeared in the February edition of Al Yassar Al Arabi (The Arab Left). The subject is Arafat's visit to Cairo and its political implications. We find it important that our leaders are acquainted with the viewpoint of Arab progressive forces on this subject, for indeed it is a matter with implications spreading beyond the Palestinian revolution, to affect the Arab national liberation movement. Michel Kamal's article essentially takes the form of a polemic directed to some components of the nationalist opposition in Egypt, who supported Arafat's visit. (The explanatory notes in brackets are our own.)



Michael Kamel, Egyptian CP Politbureau member

the visit, these differences exist within the framework of the alliance of the Arab nationalist forces. We are confident that the parties involved in an erroneous evaluation of this subject will reevaluate their positions on the basis of their nationalist sentiment...

In order to clarify our point of view, and save the objective political outlook from the vagueness that has been spread... we will focus on the substance of the matter. Without underestimating the dangerous, negative aims of the initiative to break the Egyptian regime's isolation, and putting aside discussion of boycott as a method in the political work, we do not consider that the essence of the problem lies in the fact that «a leader of an Arab nationalist movement met with the president of a subordinate regime». Rather the essence lies in the ultimate ideological and political basis behind this step, the confusion that surrounded it, the context in which the meeting occurred, the anticipated complications and the dangers it entails, for it reveals an approach and an alternative that violates the political line and decisions of the Palestinian revolution. Furthermore, it contradicts the interests of the Egyptian national liberation movement and the Arab liberation struggle.

We begin by presenting the moves that preceded, accompanied and followed this event, for these clearly expose the plans and desires of the members of the Camp David alliance and Arab reaction to capitalize on this «error». Their moves and statements to a great extent speak for themselves, removing the need for superfluous analysis and explanation.

Egyptian preparations

Two days prior to the Arafat-Mubarak meeting, Egypt's Foreign Minister made a surprise visit to Washington, where he met with Schultz and Reagan. The President of Egypt has not tried to hide that an American «blessing» had been obtained: «We told them that Arafat will stop in Cairo on his way, and they welcomed the idea.» (Al Watan, December 24.)

One day prior to the «surprise» (Arafat's visit), Al Ahram ►

The reconciliation «gate» and the Camp David path

Now that the storm unleashed by Arafat's visit to Cairo and his talks with the President of Egypt has calmed down, the atmosphere is suitable for a comradely, reasonable discussion. Though there are broad differences in the evaluation of