

the Palestinian and Arab national struggle. PFLP Politbureau member Abdul Raheem Mallouh, who participated in the Aden talks, explains this point: «The entire US policy in the area is in a predicament, and so is Arafat's new policy... Mubarak did not grant Arafat any significant gains. The PLO Research Center was allowed to operate in Egypt after a long complicated process, but this in itself is not of great significance. Mubarak in fact referred Arafat to Jordan. However, it is also clear that the Jordanian regime is not in any way willing to cooperate with the PLO as a real partner; Jordan has its own special plans for joining the process aiming at a political solution, and is using the PLO to advance its own role. This fact has become clear to all.»

The strong stand against deviation taken by the Palestinian masses and resistance organizations, combined with the failure of the right to extract any gains, sharpened discussion within Fatah itself. Arafat and some of his followers continue to pursue their deviation, making disparaging remarks about the inter-Palestinian dialogue, which they fear will limit their room for maneuver. The majority in Fatah, however, want adherence to the national line and are aware of the importance of the PLO's unity. Also the sincere desire of the PLO's Arab and international allies to see a unified PLO, firmly positioned on an anti-imperialist line, had an important influence. In specific, all forces recognize the importance of having strategic relations with Syria.

For a new balance of forces

At this stage the Palestinian left has both the opportunity and responsibility to effect a meaningful change in the balance of forces within the PLO. Post-Beirut experience has confirmed that it is the revolutionary democratic forces that are most concerned with national unity as a tool for advancing the liberation struggle. Meanwhile, the right has exhibited its readiness to sacrifice this unity and all our people's gains for the sake of illusions about the imperialist settlement. Accordingly, a persistent democratic struggle is required to end the bourgeoisie's domination of the PLO leadership and constitute a leadership which is genuinely committed to the goals of the Palestinian masses.

Thus, while expressing our optimism concerning the progress made in the inter-Palestinian dialogue and our hopes that this will facilitate an overall national consensus, we note that this does not negate the need for a broad national front within the PLO. Such a front has the mission of safeguarding the platform agreed upon, and fighting any deviating tendencies that persist. Such a broad front, representative of the masses' interests, is the long-term guarantee that the PLO will persist in the struggle against imperialism, Zionism and Arab reaction in order to achieve our people's rights to return, self-determination and an independent state. ●

PALESTINE

Aden talks

Decisive Step towards Palestinian Unity

In Aden on June 28th, the delegations representing the Central Committee of Fatah and the Democratic Alliance, which is composed of the PFLP, DFLP, PLF and PCP, succeeded in reaching an agreement on political and organizational matters. This agreement is an important step towards putting an end to the crisis in the PLO.

The political part of the agreement includes a clear position on the following matters: relations with the Egyptian regime, relations with Jordan and alliances on the Arab and international level. These points clearly chart the strategy of the PLO for the coming period. As far as relations with the Egyptian regime are concerned, the delega-

tions considered the visit of Yasir Arafat to Cairo a violation of the PLO program; its consequences should be stopped immediately and Arafat should be tried before the Palestinian National Council for such a violation. Of course the delegations agreed that the PLO should stick to its commitment to the Baghdad summit decision which calls for boycotting the Egyptian regime until it completely detaches itself from the Camp David accords. This in itself is a victory for the Democratic Alliance, because it clearly condemns the deviation committed by Arafat, and decides that the PLO must adhere to its original anti-imperialist line.

Concerning the relations with Jordan, the delegations agreed that these

should be conducted in accordance with the decisions of the PNC which clearly state that no mandate will be given to Jordan to represent the Palestinian people, that activities carried out by the PLO and Jordan should not infringe on the PLO's right to represent the Palestinian people.

As for the PLO's alliances, the delegations clearly stipulated that the PLO should have a deep and strong alliance with the Lebanese nationalist forces, with Syria and the Arab nationalist regimes, and with the Arab liberation movements. This in itself also clearly charts the strategy of the PLO on the Arab level. As for the international level, it calls for strengthening relations with ►