

the socialist and democratic forces all over the world.

On the organizational level, the agreement includes new and important reformatory steps concerning the structure of the PLO, its departments and institutions, and concerning implementation of collective leadership. On the level of the Executive Committee, the delegations agreed that all organizations should be represented and that the **daily leadership of the PLO** should be executed by the chairman and several vice-presidents, forming a secretariat to lead the daily work of the PLO. This will be included in the internal regulations of the PLO, thus for the first time since 1964, making an important amendment which will make collective leadership not merely slogans, but a practical reality. As for the Central Council, the delegations agreed to amend the internal regulations so that the Central Council will be elected by the PNC, not chosen; it will have the authority to decide and to exercise control over the Executive Committee. The Central Council will have the right to freeze the membership of anyone in the Executive Committee who does not abide by the decisions of the PNC. There are many other items on the level of reforming the PLO's structure, which will create better national front relations. Of course the dialogue in Aden was tough, but the atmosphere was one of responsibility and concern for solving the problems of the PLO in order to protect the national cause of the Palestinian people. Therefore this step is important in preparing the ground for the overall unity of the PLO. It is a culmination of a series of dialogues which took place in Algiers and Eden in April and May.

The basis for the Algiers talks

The Joint Leadership took clear stands against the use of violence to solve the internal PLO contradictions, and subsequently took a clear stand against Arafat's visit to Cairo, as this was a clear breach of the PNC program and a threat to the anti-imperialist line of the PLO. Immediately the Joint Leadership

started a series of meetings to draw up a plan for the reunification of the PLO on a clear anti-imperialist basis. Two other organizations joined: the Palestinian Communist Party and the Palestinian Liberation Front.

The plan on which they agreed on March 27th, was termed the Aden agreement, a political initiative to reunify the PLO on a nationalist basis. Actually, it is a plan of struggle, through democratic dialogue, against the political line of the extreme right in the PLO, and against the adventurous line of the organizations which resorted to arms to solve the internal contradictions in the PLO. The Aden agreement provided the basis for the talks in Algiers.

The results of the first round

The first round of talks in Algiers in April was an important one: It was the first meeting between the Democratic Alliance and the Central Committee of Fatah after months of conflict. The delegations exchanged points of view related to the developments in the Middle East since the PLO's departure from Beirut. Then points of difference were sorted out to be worked on in an effort to reach a joint platform.

The most important achievements of the first round of talks were:

1. It was agreed that the PNC will not be held until there is an overall national agreement between all Palestinian organizations.

2. The delegations drew up the basis for reconciliation between Syria and Fatah's Central Committee. These political points were carried to Damascus by Mohammad Sharif Mussaidiya, General Secretary of the Algerian National Liberation Front.

The second round of talks in May went a bit differently. The first round had been openly criticized by some leading figures of Fatah, as well as by some leading figures of the Fatah opposition in Damascus. Such stands showed that the dialogue initiated by the Joint Leadership would run into opposition from those who have no interest in

reunification of the PLO. Such criticism from both sides pushed the delegations to speak frankly. Thus, the talks focused on the points of differences.

The discussions were serious and the round resulted in positive advance. A member of the Joint Leadership's delegation reported: «We managed to reach an agreement on all political issues except two items: The political stand vis-a-vis the relationship with the Egyptian regime; and the joint Jordanian-Palesti-

Press Release

After a series of Palestinian dialogue meetings held in Algiers and Aden, characterized by a high degree of openness, responsibility and concern for the unity of the PLO, its national line and its role as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people...

The participant organizations declare to all our Palestinian and Arab people as well as to our international friends and allies that the discussions were quite successful in reaching an agreement. This agreement is a historic step towards the reunification of the PLO and the Palestinian revolution, and safeguarding its national path until victory.

nian statement which calls for joint political moves. These points are scheduled for discussion in the third round of talks in Aden.»

Reform is necessary

Experience has proved beyond any doubt that organizational guarantees are needed to insure the commitment of the PLO Executive Committee to the program and decisions of the PNC.

According to the present structure and distribution of authority, the Chairman of the Executive Committee can take decisions on all matters in the inter-