

But what happened? The area given to 'Israel' by the partition plan, the international legal base for creating the state, was approximately 50% of Palestine. Prior to the 1967 war, 'Israel' had illegally appropriated 80% of Palestine through aggression. In the 1967 war, 'Israel' completed possession of Palestine and occupied other Arab territory.

Now 17 years have elapsed without Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, despite the fact that many Arab leaders have accepted the formula of return of the land in exchange for recognition and peace with 'Israel'. Daily King Hussein expresses his acceptance of this formula, which was affirmed by UN resolution 242.

This imposes responsible thinking about the true nature of the Zionist entity in order to determine the basis for a just, lasting peace in the area. We are confident that in the end the nature and aims of this entity will be exposed; it will be clear that a just, lasting peace in the area can only be achieved by uprooting Zionism from the Arab land. This was partially concluded by the UN General Assembly when it condemned Zionism as a reactionary racist movement. Is it possible that Zionism be defeated and at the same time 'Israel' remains? Is it possible for 'Israel' to exist without Zionism?

The time will come when we are able to tell the world that whoever wants a just, lasting peace should support us in uprooting this entity from the Arab area. We recall Brezhnev's declaration during the 1982 war in Lebanon, that should 'Israel' continue to be aggressive and to ignore the Palestinian people's rights, it will lose the legal basis of its existence, which was the partition plan which also grants the Palestinian people's right to an independent state.

Let's fight Arab reaction's attempts at coexistence with the Zionist entity

With the blessings of King Hassan II's regime, a Jewish conference was held in Morocco, attended by an official Zionist delegation from 'Israel'. The Saudi and Kuwaiti regimes said that they were not aware of such matter. Now that they know, we await their response, but our waiting will remain fruitless. In Egypt, the official declarations are all supportive, calling for the recognition of 'Israel'. Accordingly we must concentrate more on fighting such attempts.

I say this in light of Arafat's recent course; he is running after a share in the settlement when it is clear that any settlement under the current balance of forces imposes recognition of the Zionist entity. He is not ashamed of this even though it threatens the very existence and national identity of the Palestinian people and the aims of the Arab nation... Certain sectors of the Palestinian and Arab bourgeoisie are prepared to deal with the imperialist-Zionist formula for 'peace'.

What are the nature and conditions of the imperialist-Zionist 'peace'?

First: Rejection of the Palestinian national existence (identity) and state. This is the Zionist formula with the excep-

tion of small groups in 'Israel' who speak of the possibility of recognizing the Palestinian people's rights. The major parties, who will remain in power for a long time, completely refuse this. There are no differences between the two major parties, Likud and Labor, and the results of the coming elections will not vary whether Shamir or Peres wins. Together these parties will have 90 votes out of 120 (in the Knesset) which shows that they will continue in power for a long time. We should not expect anything from either: The Likud wants to annex all the occupied Arab territories, while Labor is ready to give a small part of the West Bank to Jordan, due to fear of the demographic factor whereby with time the Palestinians would become the majority if all the territories are annexed.

Second: Normalization of relations which is greatly needed for marketing purposes...to open the Arab market for Israeli products.

Third: The imperialists and Zionists will not accept any peace unless the whole area falls under imperialist dominance. This was the reason for the 1967 war and the 1982 war in Lebanon. The Zionists gave the excuse of «Peace for Galilee», but the real objectives were much greater than protecting the settlements or expelling the Palestinian resistance... I won't mention all these objectives but among them was the Israeli desire to control the Litani River, for the water crisis in 'Israel' is very real.

Such 'peace' and normalization are accepted by sectors of the Palestinian and Arab bourgeoisie, who see their interests in such a solution, but all the Arab masses reject this. We all know how the Egyptian masses refused to deal with the Zionist entity despite the steps of Sadat and then Mubarak. One day these masses will impose their will.

The Lebanese nationalists' victories are a great historical lesson

After the departure of the Palestinian resistance from Beirut, 'Israel' wanted to achieve the aims of its invasion. Yet, the Lebanese nationalist forces continued the struggle. 'Israel' and the fascists of Lebanon, both supported by imperialism, were confronted by the Lebanese nationalists, the progressive forces in the Palestinian revolution, Syria and the Soviet Union. This struggle resulted in a historical victory for the national alliance and the cancellation of the May 17th agreement.

Where was the official Palestinian role in this period? Where was Arafat? We all felt bitter that the role of the PLO as a vanguard force was not up to our people's expectations. It is a major problem for us that Arafat did not gather all the Palestinian forces to maintain their natural role in the Palestinian-nationalist Lebanese-Syrian alliance. Thus, it is a great problem for us that Arafat still heads the PLO. It is a problem for every nationalist Palestinian, Lebanese, Syria and the Arab liberation movement that the PLO's role is weakened at this critical stage of our struggle. How to remedy the situation? This will not be an easy matter, yet how?