

Burning tasks

First: Escalation of the armed struggle in Palestine, as well as our duty of participating with the Lebanese National Resistance Front... Arafat wants to tell the US and the Israeli Labor Party, if it succeeds in the elections: Let's work out a solution. Thus, he did not dare to display clear support to the recent operations in Jerusalem and Askelon. Let's face this deviating trend with all our powers. The effect of such operations in Palestine is now known. Let all the Palestinian organizations impose their existence on this level, for this is the way to confront the path Arafat is trying to impose.

Second: Formation of a broad national front to defeat deviation. The armed struggle must be backed by the proper political structures. As an immediate treatment for the prevailing crisis in the PLO, all Palestinian national efforts should be gathered in a wide national front which will confront and prevent the deviation, and fill the gap resulting from this deviation. I call upon all Palestinian organizations to take responsible steps to gather all efforts in such a front, to safeguard the PLO's unity on a national basis, to escalate the armed struggle, and fill the vacancy in the national Lebanese-Palestinian-Syrian alliance. There is no room for sectarian attitudes that paralyze this process. No one should expect self-gain at this stage; most important is the battle against the path of surrender.

Third: Waging a patient struggle to restore the unity of the PLO... Some may want to finalize matters quickly, yet it is not possible to take hasty steps and still safeguard the PLO's unity. The PLO represents a great gain to our people through which national efforts have been directed for 20 years. This resulted

in international recognition of our cause. The PLO now represents the Palestinian national identity and the unity of the Palestinian people's struggle. Though headed by the bourgeoisie, it is the poor and working masses who have given the PLO its great value through their sacrifices. It would be a great mistake if we allowed the surrendering sectors of the Palestinian bourgeoisie to claim representation of the PLO and succeed in securing recognition on the international level. We should prevent this through two stages: first by preventing Arafat from speaking in the name of Palestinian legitimacy, or in the name of all PLO Executive Committee members, PNC members, or Central Committee members; second by assembling the institutions of the PLO after doing away with deviating practices.

Comrades, through the armed struggle and its escalation, through the national front to face the deviating method, we hope that the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, will regain its position as an active force responsible for the achievement of our people's national aims. When the PLO regains its unity, power and anti-imperialist line, our comrades in the Lebanese national movement and in Syria will agree on the PLO's outstanding role which helped to blaze the trail of struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

The Palestinian cause is a just cause of a people dismissed from their homeland. Yet the US grants all support to 'Israel' to the extent that it does not condemn, even formally, the settlement-building in the occupied territories. Despite all this, the Arab reactionaries continue their alliance and subordination to the US. This affirms that the Palestinian cause is the real exposure of Arab reaction's treacherous nature.

Comrade Hawi

Today's celebration is to praise the heroic action of the PFLP fighters on the road between Tel Aviv and Gaza, which followed the DFLP's Jerusalem operation. These represent the continuity of a political line and revolutionary logic which the Palestinian left has made a material fact through the Joint Leadership of the PFLP and DFLP. How magnificent this action of expropriating a bus from the Zionist usurper and driving it on the road of struggle. This is the road of armed struggle leading to the national rights of the Palestinian people. This is not the road travelled in surrendering ships via the Egyptian regime to hand over the Palestinian right of independent representation to the King of Jordan and others, in hopes of securing fictive rights which the Palestinian people will never gain through such roads. Two different approaches to the struggle for national rights of the Palestinian people are now confronting each other on the Palestinian and Arab level.

The Palestinian left has proved itself as being more concerned about the Palestinian people's national interests and about the political, moral and military achievements of the Palestinian revolution. It is the more capable of leading the

struggle for securing these rights. The left has also proved itself as being the more concerned about unity and the principles adopted by the PNC. It has also proved its vigilance through its political stands and all the initiatives to end the acute crisis which was caused by the policy of the Palestinian right.

The Lebanese-Palestinian alliance

There is a unity of blood and destiny between the Lebanese and the Palestinian people. This was embodied in the Lebanese National Resistance Front where the determination of the Lebanese and the heroes of Ain al Hilweh met and worked against the Israeli occupation.

After the US-supported Israeli aggression on Lebanon in 1982, some thought that Lebanese-Palestinian unity would only be maintained through political maneuvers, exaggerating the unfavorable balance of forces to justify dealing with the results of the invasion. There were many attempts in the name of realism and flexibility to have this unity function according to