

Revitalizing the Arab National Liberation Movement

JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE AND THE LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY

During the months of April and May, 1984, a series of meetings were held between the PFLP and LCP leaderships. The delegations were headed by Comrade George Habash, Secretary General of the PFLP and Comrade George Hawi, Secretary General of the LCP Central Committee. During these meetings, both delegations discussed the current situation in the Lebanese, Palestinian and Arab arenas in the context of the existing international situation. They also discussed the tasks facing revolutionary forces in these areas in confronting the fierce imperialist-Zionist attacks and how to escalate the struggle in each Arab country in order to achieve revolutionary goals in the Arab world.

The joint communique issued as a result of these discussions began with an assessment of the current situation: Lebanon was pinpointed as the main arena of confrontation between the Arab National Liberation Movement and the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plans. The enemy plan is to make Lebanon the bridge to a new chapter in the Camp David accords, and the right-wing trend represented by Arafat's visit to Cairo falls in line with this plan. On the other hand, the battles in Lebanon, in the mountains and West Beirut, and the ongoing anti-occupation resistance in the South and Beqaa Valley, are objective indications of the national and progressive forces' ability to counter the enemy plans. While the Lebanese national and progressive forces played the main role in these victories, the contribution of the revolutionary Palestinian forces, Syria and other Arab national and progressive forces was emphasized.

Continuing the struggle against the enemy plans will deepen the polarization in the area. More bourgeois forces will join the capitulationist trend, highlighting the class essence of the national struggle and the importance of working class leadership. The leading role of the working class corresponds to the interests of the broadest sectors of the masses. It is thus the only guarantee for uniting the national

and progressive forces in the consistent, long-term mobilization required to extract the Arab national liberation movement from its crisis and effect a new balance of forces in the region. On this basis, the Arab national liberation movement can defeat the enemy plans and achieve its goals of liberation, unity and progress. An essential component of this process is advancing the alliance with the international revolutionary movement, especially the Soviet Union.

On the basis of their assessment, the PFLP and LCP called on all national and progressive Arab forces to derive a comprehensive program for struggle on the national level, based on the accumulation of programs for each Arab country. The PFLP and LCP view the essential principles for such a program as follows:

ON THE LEBANESE LEVEL

The PFLP and the LCP call for maintaining the victories achieved by expelling the US occupation forces, abrogating the May 17th agreement and weakening the basis for Phalangist domination. These victories should be employed in strengthening the struggle against the Israeli occupation and expelling its forces from Lebanese land without any conditions.

The PFLP and the LCP call for supporting the Lebanese national resistance against the occupation with all forms of military, armed, mass and political resistance in order to enable the Lebanese people to expel the Zionist occupiers. Today this is a task of exceptional importance for all Arab and international national liberation forces.

Obviously, to protect the gains that have been achieved requires dedicated work to develop them further. To stand still at the present level would decrease the meaning of the victories achieved so far and would make it difficult to defend them when the counterattack is launched. One should not rest on these gains, but rather enrich them with a strong firm basis through serious democratic reforms. Encumbering these victories with sectarian compromises will only reestablish internal Lebanese relations on the basis of a new sharing of interests among sectarian leaders at the expense of the popular masses. If there is not effective unity of Lebanon, the country will remain subject to disunity and will continue to be an arena for furthering the Zionist plan which seeks to divide Lebanon into sectarian cantons which will consecrate and justify the Zionist entity and provide it with secured borders which it aims for. The partition of Lebanon will also provide the Zionist entity with the vital chance to impose its domination on Lebanon and to generalize the trend of splits as a means to impose its domination over the entire region.

Serious and radical reform that is mainly founded on the