

preparing to deal a new poker hand in an atmosphere of dialogue with the Zionist enemy.

King Hassan is not pursuing his capitulationist path alone. He is operating under the cover of Arab reaction provided by the Egyptian regime in particular. The Egyptian regime warmly received the convening of the Moroccan Jewish conference. Egyptian Foreign Minister Butros Ghali considered it a new justification for the correctness of the Camp David accords. The reservations of the majority of the Arab regimes about condemning the conference and their complete silence is evidence of their approval.

Only Arab nationalist governments have taken a stand against King Hassan's current maneuvering. Democratic

Yemen issued a statement condemning the conference and the Israeli participation in it. The Yemeni statement emphasized that Moroccan sponsorship of the conference fell within the framework of the conspiracies against the Arab people and is in line with the policy of Camp David. Syria reacted very strongly against this Moroccan violation of Arab Summit resolutions and recalled its ambassador from Morocco. Syria demanded that Arab countries impose sanctions against the Moroccan regime. Syria withdrew its representative from the Jerusalem Committee of the Islamic Conference Organization, which is chaired by King Hassan.

The fact that there has not been an official statement issued by the PLO or even a top PLO official to condemn the

conference, has created more confusion. This was exploited by Arab reaction and King Hassan himself to portray the PLO as being complicit, thus hoping to drag the PLO further down the path of Camp David.

The PFLP believes that it is the duty of the PLO to take a strong position against such moves. The PLO should lead an Arab campaign to resist and contain King Hassan's moves. At a minimum, the PLO should seek to remove King Hassan from the chairmanship of the Jerusalem Committee. The question of Jerusalem is not limited to the issue of freedom of worship as King Hassan views it, but is above all the question of liberating Jerusalem and all occupied territories to ensure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. ●

Egypt

MUBARAK TRIES TO GIVE REGIME NATIONALIST FAÇADE WITH FRAUDULENT ELECTIONS

In May 1984, Egyptian President Mubarak attempted to provide his regime with a nationalist facade by sponsoring fraudulent parliamentary elections. The outcome was not surprising: the ruling National Democratic Party gained 391 of the 448 parliamentary seats, more than the NDP previously held. All opposition parties lost the seats they formally held. The recently legalized Wafd Party won the remaining 57. The results were so skewed in favor of the regime that Mubarak later felt embarrassed enough to appoint a member of the opposition Socialist Labor Party as speaker of the parliament. The Egyptian left organized in the National Progressive Unionist Party has refused to participate in the new sham parliament.

To understand the objectives of these elections it is important to view them in the context of the crisis that led to the assassination of Anwar Sadat. After his death, it became apparent that the Egyptian ruling class was unable to rule with the same old methods. Continuation of Sadat's methods would have led to a mass uprising due to the aggravated political and economic crisis. This in turn led the Mubarak regime to contrive a new fake democratic consensus which would tart up the government of Camp David and the economic «open door» to imperialism with a nationalist facade.

Prior to the elections, legislation

was formulated so as to secure a sizeable parliamentary majority for the ruling NDP. The new electoral legislation stipulated that only those parties which received at least 8% of the vote on a country-wide basis would be entitled to sit in the People's Assembly. Through this law, the ruling party was able to prevent representation of three opposition parties: the Socialist Labor Party, the National Progressive Unionist Party and the Liberal Party. All the votes obtained by these opposition parties were added to the votes gained by the NDP. The number of seats allotted to the NDP rose from 337 to 391.

For the first time, elections occurred

in Egypt under conditions that allowed for relative freedom of expression. But the electoral laws predetermined the results, and the state repressive apparatus and the exceptional laws of the Sadat era remained intact to ensure that there would be no surprise victories for the opposition.

To make «democratization» appear more credible, even the disbanded Wafd Party was allowed to reconstitute itself. The old Wafd traditionally represented productive sectors of the Egyptian bourgeoisie which never benefitted from the creation of the unproductive *infitah* bourgeoisie of the Sadat era. This reemergence of the Wafd was accom-