



Festival on the occasion of the anniversary of the Joint Leadership. Music and dance groups from the youth of the PFLP and DFLP participated.

the sake of restoring the unity and retaining the weight of the Palestinian national struggle and the PLO. In this context, the Joint Leadership struggled along three main lines:

First: The struggle against the political deviation that emerged after the departure of the PLO forces from Beirut and crystallized with Arafat's visit to Cairo in December 1983. The aim of this struggle was to preserve and strengthen the anti-Zionist, anti-imperialist political line of the PLO, and to maintain the PLO as a vanguard force in the Arab national liberation movement, as well as part of the international anti-imperialist front.

Second: The struggle against adventurism and splits that has threatened the PLO and the Palestinian national struggle, especially when violence was used in 1983 to resolve internal contradictions.

These two dangers had to be confronted in order to restore and strengthen national unity in the PLO. The Joint Leadership exerted broad and intensive efforts in this direction that eventually led to the recent agreement between the Democratic Alliance and the Fatah Central Committee after tough negotiations in Algiers and Aden; this agreement provides a suitable basis for restoring Palestinian national unity within the PLO.

Third: The struggle for reform in the bodies and institutions of the PLO. In November 1983, the Joint Leadership proposed the program for unity and democratic reform in the PLO. This outlined concrete proposals for deepening national unity, enriching democracy and enacting collective leadership in the

PLO. Such reforms are clearly stipulated in the Aden agreement between the Democratic Alliance and the Central Committee of Fatah (see text elsewhere in this issue).

In these efforts the role of the Joint Leadership has been significantly increased by the emergence of the

Democratic Alliance which includes the Palestinian Communist Party and the Palestinian Liberation Front, in addition to the Joint Leadership. This is an indication of the correctness of forming the Joint Leadership as a means of drawing other forces on the Palestinian left into closer cooperation.

Growing influence of the democratic forces

The formation of the Joint Leadership was enthusiastically welcomed by broad sectors of the Palestinian masses everywhere. This was a clear expression of the masses' attitude towards national unity in general and the unity of the left in particular. The Palestinian masses have given strong support to the efforts made by the Joint Leadership to preserve the PLO's anti-imperialist, anti-Zionist line and restore its unity. Mass support has been expressed in statements signed by dozens of national personalities, trade unions, mass organizations, mayors and social institutions, when initiatives were launched by the

Democratic Alliance Welcomes Soviet Proposal

On August 5th, the Democratic Alliance met on the leadership level to discuss the latest proposals of the Soviet Union for a solution of the Middle East problem. The following statement was issued:

With welcome and support, the Democratic Alliance received the latest Soviet proposals for a just solution of the Middle East crisis, which affirmed the necessity of responding to our Palestinian people's rights including their right to return to their homeland, self-determination and establishing an independent state on their national land, and which reaccentuated the role of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative and spokesman of our people.

The Democratic Alliance views this initiative as a new expression of the firm and decisive position of the Soviet Union, as seen in its active, principled support to the just struggle of our Palestinian people and all peoples of the Arab nation, in the political and diplomatic field and in all fields of struggle, against imperialist-Zionist aggression.

At this time of very crucial conditions for our people's struggle, this initiative was put forth to block the attempts of the US-Zionist-Arab reactionary alliance

to impose liquidationist, capitulationist solutions at the expense of our people's rights, independence and sacred national cause.

The contents of the initiative emphasize that the Palestinian cause is the essence of the conflict in the Middle East, and there will be no solution to this conflict unless the rights of our Palestinian people and the PLO's sole right of representation are recognized. On this basis, the Democratic Alliance calls upon all Palestinian and Arab national forces to grasp the Soviet initiative as a weapon for struggle against the Camp David course and accords, and against all liquidationist and capitulationist solutions including the Reagan plan, 'autonomy' and the so-called Jordanian option.

- PFLP
- DFLP
- Palestinian Communist Party
- Palestinian Liberation Front