

Palestinian Information

Tasks and Perspectives

This is a continuation of the essay by Bassam Abu Sharif which we began publishing in «Democratic Palestine» no. 4. The entire essay has been published as a booklet by the International Organization of Journalists (IOJ).

3) Information in the Arab World

As regards relations to governments and official institutions, all Palestinian information workers have before them two basic tasks from which secondary tasks follow:

The first task is to counter official reactionary information which disorients the Arab masses. Such information media are either linked with the imperialist information machinery or are joined to it on the level of political programs. Palestinian information employees come up in this instance against certain difficulties in view of the official attitude of the Palestine Liberation Organization towards these regimes clearly allied to Washington. In this instance there is the danger that the Arab masses will become the victims of disinformation because some of these regimes set up institutions which speak, issue newspapers and programs in the name of the Palestinians.

The second task in this field is to strengthen the official patriotic Arab attitude supporting the rights of the Palestinians and the Palestinian revolutionary struggle. This is a sensitive task because it reflects an alliance of the revolution - which is leading an armed struggle against the enemy - with the patriotic

regimes preparing for armed struggle against the enemy.

In relation to the Arab people, Palestinian information workers have more extensive tasks before them than those they came across on the national scale. This is because of the existence of the Arab liberation movement and the turbulent mass current which supports the Palestinian revolution. Concentrating the masses for support of the Palestinian cause must be regarded as one of the fundamental tasks.

Besides circulating basic information about the Palestinian cause and spreading Palestinian national culture in all its forms, Palestinian information workers have the job of fighting side by side with the Arab liberation movements, in each individual country, to counter all attempts at political disorientation which the imperialist information machinery is trying to spread, together with local circles that collaborate with it.

At the same time, Palestinian information workers have the daily job of inculcating a spirit of determination to actively participate in the fight for the liberation of Palestine on the basis of an unshakable faith in final victory.

4) Information on a Worldwide Scale

Palestinian information cadres have before them the most complicated battle when it comes to a worldwide scale. Their opponent is the imperialist-Zionist machinery whose tentacles spread into various parts of the world and whose products are distributed throughout the world, even to the most remote areas. Our information workers also have the task of informing the camp of their friends about events. This, too, is a complicated assignment, but it can rely on the help of our allies.

Camp of Friends

On a worldwide scale, standing at the side of the just fight of the Arab Palestinian people is the socialist community with all its authority, and also the world liberation movement and the democratic forces in the capitalist countries.

But this position at the side of the just fight of the Arab Palestinian people is not to say that the facts concerning the struggle have been fully absorbed by the broad masses in these countries. We can even say that for the most part, in the

capitalist countries, the Zionist forces try to distort the reality in the minds of the masses while attacking the socialist regimes and the liberation movement. The socialist states and the liberation movement offer much room for information about the Palestinian revolution. The task of Palestinian workers of communication media is to use as best as possible the opportunities which exist so that both official and popular support of our people's fight grows stronger. Information workers, in this regard, have a large number of broad channels available and it is essential to constantly make use of these possibilities.

Literature and Political Analysis

The first obligation resting on the shoulders of Palestinian information workers is to translate a great deal of Palestinian literature and information into the languages spoken by the nations of the socialist countries and the masses fighting for freedom and justice.

If Palestinian literary works are translated into these lan-