

charging people for treatment. What did the organizations do to help? I frankly say nothing! We don't have financial means to solve them. We are seeking a solution through the PLO. So far, the PLO is not paying any attention, and the gap between our masses and the PLO is widening. We don't need speeches from the Bekaa Valley or the North. We need action. We need the revolution to resolve our problems. Honestly, our children are hungry, poverty is mounting, and employment is not available. I hold the PLO and the Department for Social Affairs responsible. It must work to find a solution for our needs. Otherwise our lives will become decadent, and people will be forced to resort to stealing. Is that what they want?

«People were left without a leader. We took the initiative and formed the Popular Committee.» This is what brother Darwish, another member of the Committee said. He also added: «In spite of the mistakes of our leadership in the PLO and all the tragedies we have suffered, our people remained steadfast, and are still proud of our leadership. We were left alone in the camps. There is no leadership, and no Popular Committees to guide the work. This existing Popular Committee was formed by our initiative. It operates with limitations and without any support. After the legitimate leadership left Lebanon, people were left without a leadership and began to work alone and spontaneously. I'd like to say that this Popular Committee has no contacts with the Palestinian leadership now, despite all our attempts. We fully understand there are difficulties facing the revolution which are negatively reflected on our political and economic conditions. We hope now that things will be corrected. The Aden agreement leaves a place for this hope. Through this we hope that the PLO will be reunited and will have one united political decision. We demand our leadership to achieve the national unity, since our strength stems from our unity. We also demand a quick solution to our problems in

Lebanon, or else we remain split. Improving our living conditions will help us remain steadfast against the enemy. The PLO in Lebanon is not playing its role. It is unable to do anything. More than that, the PLO responsables do not come to the camps to check the conditions of people here. I'd like to emphasize that we are facing a severe crisis, people are slowly losing confidence in the PLO. We hope this crisis will not be aggravated.»

In regards to the contacts with the Lebanese national forces brother Darwish commented: «Our contacts with the Lebanese national forces are diverse. The Popular Committee contacts the Amal Movement, the progressive socialists, nationalist persons and religious leaders. Our contacts are limited to requests of aid, security and protection for our people. Relations with all parties are positive. Their leadership is good. Their militias still conduct some undesired practices which in fact almost caused a disaster in Shatila Camp. However, the Popular Committee and some nationalists quickly moved to contain the problem.»

Finally brother Darwish expressed his views regarding the Aden agreement as follows: «We support the Aden agreement on the condition that it will be implemented. The Aden agreement is good, and what was agreed upon is beautiful. But we demand practical implementation. The unity of the PLO must manifest itself by its response to the dire needs of our masses. The agreement must be implemented in order to benefit us. Decisions and agreements that were not implemented are many. The unity of the PLO is our hope. It is the result of the sacrifices of the past 18 years and it should be preserved. We support what was agreed upon in Aden on the condition that it is implemented. If decisions are not implemented, they are unworthy.»

The Lebanese Nationalists' View of the Palestinian - Lebanese Relations



KARIM MRUWA; a Polit Bureau member of the Lebanese Communist Party (LCP), spoke about reformulating the Lebanese-Palestinian relations on a new basis. He said: «We, the Lebanese Communist Party, took the first initiative to specify these relations in a joint statement between the LCP and PFLP. We were accused of calling for the return of the Palestinian resistance to Lebanon openly as before. However, we emphasized that our aim was to rectify the Lebanese-Palestinian relations. This differs from calling for the return of the Palestinian resistance to Lebanon as was previously. We believe that our position regarding this matter was clearly defined in the LCP-PFLP joint statement and in our last Central Committee's report. We believe that the basis we defined for rectifying the joint relations will contribute to the advancement of the Lebanese-Palestinian national interests. Further, such basis will prevent the repetition of previous mistakes that hindered our work in the past and can threaten our national interests in the future. Here I would like to point out that the basis of the relation deals with the right of the Palestinians to struggle for their right from all Arab territories. This point we emphasized in the joint statement under two conditions: first, that the return of the Palestinian resistance would have to abandon all unnecessary open forms of operation such as offi-