

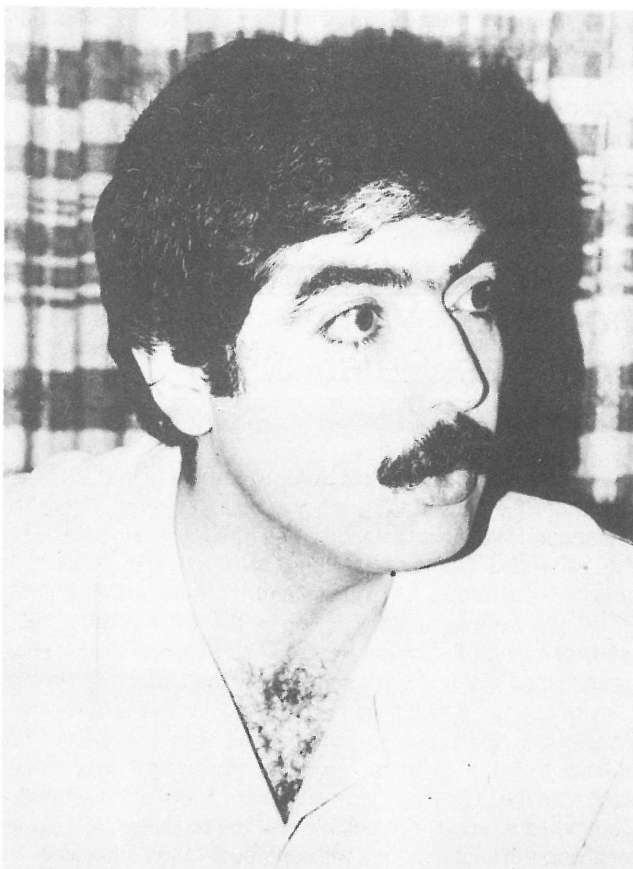
cial agreements which specify one office here and another faction there. Second, the right of the Palestinians to operate from any Arab country must be in harmony with the local national movement's political line. The Palestinians and the national forces of each Arab country must work together to eliminate any contradictions. Any defect in these two main conditions will hinder the advancement of the relation and further damage it.

In this context, I believe that the current discussion on the Cairo agreement is only taking place in the parliament. We, as Lebanese nationalist forces, are not participating in it because whether the Cairo agreement is preserved or cancelled will not change our views of the Lebanese-Palestinian relations.

We believe that the Cairo agreement is just a formality. Though among those opposing the agreement, there are some who aim at destroying the existing Lebanese-Palestinian relations, not all have this intention. Indeed, all opposition stems from different motives: some believe that the conditions that brought about the agreement have changed radically and are no longer applicable to the existing situation. Others believe that it is just a formality and it is not a question of agreement or not. This is our position since the national struggle is not determined by agreements. In our view the question is not abrogating or not abrogating the Cairo agreement as long as the

essence of the subject is determined by specific political points with a national and militant content.

In response to reopening the PLO office in Beirut, comrade Mruwa stated: «We believe that this is a right and should happen soon which I expect.» Comrade Mruwa also addressed the question of sectarian problems and repressive practices that arose after liberating West Beirut especially in the Palestinian camps. He said: «We should study the background of these problems. They definitely stem from the political tendencies declared in different times which impacted the situation. Other reasons were related to the enemy penetration of both Lebanese and Palestinian national forces. This created obstacles in establishing sound relations between the two national forces. This is not a new phenomenon but always existed to create conflicts between the nationalists. Another reason is contributed to the PLO existing split, which extends itself to the camps. Such conflicts also draw into Lebanese elements as well. In my evaluation, all these reasons were behind the problems that should be put in the proper framework. It is not in our interest to enlarge such problems. Concerted efforts were made by all to eradicate them in order not to be repeated and work to develop correct relations among brothers.



Brother Hasan Hashim, the President of the Executive Body of the Amal Movement, also addressed the question of the Lebanese-Palestinian relations from his movement's point of view. He stated: «It is incorrect to discuss the new basis for the relations between the Lebanese national forces and the Palestinian resistance as if they have ended. These relations still exist and do not need new basis. The Palestinian cause

does not only concern Palestinians, rather it concerns every Arab and muslim.» He continued, saying: «If some in previous periods had abandoned the Palestinian cause, this concerns them as individuals only. We all must work to preserve the good brotherly relations that existed between the national Lebanese and Palestinian forces. We, in Amal Movement, say that we have a great responsibility towards the Palestinians in Lebanon. However, we do this taking in consideration the particularities of the Palestinian and Lebanese situations. Today the Palestinian presence in Lebanon is not military, but rather it is civil, it is the right of the Palestinians to live in Lebanon like all Lebanese citizens.»

In regards to the discriminatory Lebanese laws towards the Palestinians brother Hashim stated: «Some practices exist which are adopted by the Lebanese authorities who discriminate against the Palestinians due to political differences. Recently I dealt with matters such as passports for Palestinians. This shows that the Lebanese authorities in particular those close to the Phalangist Party hold great antagonism towards the Palestinians. They hope that through such practices they can force the Palestinians to emigrate or give in to the Phalangist policies. We, in Amal Movement, are for terminating all laws and conditions that discriminate between Palestinians and Lebanese in Lebanon. We believe that the Palestinian presence in Lebanon is temporary which will end when the Palestinian objectives are achieved.» Regarding the sectarian practices in the camps, brother Hashim said: «I would like to clearly point out that these problems are not more than individual ones that normally can occur within the one-family or the one organization. I say that so we or others do not have illusions....We immediately responded to the problems and solved them. We in Amal have arrested some individuals who are responsible for such problems. Investigation is in process and we will take necessary measures against everyone responsible for this, be it a Palestinian or Lebanese.»

Brother Hashim also stated that: «To open a PLO office in Beirut is a right, an agreement still holds between the PLO and the Lebanese state.»